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March 15, 2021

Dear Cleveland Hill School Community,

As this correspondence is being drafted, we have yet to receive any updated guidance or new interpretation of existing guidance that would allow school districts the opportunity to even consider bringing students back to full-time, five days per week, in-person learning. Part of the challenge that this lack of guidance from authorities creates is that people begin to speculate and fill in the blanks with what they hear or see on the news or social media.

In this regard, I recently cosigned a letter with other school superintendents and doctors. In the letter, we share a summary of science-based thinking that we hope helps form updated state guidance that would give districts the opportunity to return all students to fully in-person learning. We also ask that if the state has no plans to update its guidance to schools, to please affirm the current guidance so that we can know that we'll finish the school year in our current learning models. Do not take my signing this letter as a final decision to return our students to full-time, five days per week, in-person learning. My intent is to have that as an option available to us for consideration, or for us to at least know that we will finish the school year with our current structure.

Should new guidance from state or county officials make full-time, five days per week in-person learning an option for Cleveland Hill to truly consider, a comprehensive survey that we would require all parents or guardians to complete will be conducted prior to any final decision being reached. The survey we administered a couple of weeks ago regarding a potential return to full five days per week instruction did show support for that move with approximately 85% of respondents selecting the full in-person return option. I understand that those numbers may not accurately reflect everyone's true sentiment, as remaining in our current hybrid instructional model was not an option for that survey.

Regardless of any state guidance or survey feedback, the health and safety of our students, faculty and staff will be the top priority. There are many variables to consider and any change would take weeks to implement. No shift in our instructional model would be implemented until we can safely, responsibly and legally do so.

We will continue to keep you informed of any new developments. If you have any questions or concerns feel free to reach out to your building principal or myself. Thank you again for your trust, support and cooperation.

Best regards,

Jon MacSwan
Superintendent