



THOMPSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

785 Riverside Drive
North Grosvenordale, CT 06255

Tel: (860) 923-9581
Fax: (860) 923-9638

August 7, 2020

Dear Thompson Families,

I want to thank you for taking the time to complete the TPS Learning Program & Transportation Selection form for your child. This information is essential as we continue to plan for the full reopening of Thompson Public Schools. If you have not submitted the form, please complete the form and get it to us by email: dpederson@thompsonpublicschools.org, by postal mail using the self-addressed envelope provided to you, or by dropping off the form at the Administration Office.

If you did not receive the form, the form can be found on the district's website under the Coronavirus section: <http://district.thompsonk12.org/2020/03/05/district-update-regarding-coronavirus/>

Currently, the district is planning on opening school full time on Monday, August 31, 2020 for all students, preschool through grade twelve. I do want to bring to your attention that we will monitor the spread of COVID-19 in our community and it may be necessary to change this plan if cases increase in our area. In addition, we are depending on funding from the State to offset the costs associated with returning students to the classroom. As you know, the members of the Board of Education had to make drastic cuts to the school budget which left us without any funds to cover unknown costs associated with this health emergency.

Parents must be prepared that the district may shift to a hybrid program or a full distance learning program based on the health metrics in the community and / or staffing and funding issues prior to the start of school.

I understand the significant childcare challenges this may place on families; however, our first priority is to keep our students, faculty, and staff safe. I urge all families who have selected the onsite learning program to develop a plan now for childcare in case we must alter our reopening plans and transition to a hybrid or distance learning program.

Some families have decided to opt out of having their children attend school in person. This group of students will begin their distance learning program on Tuesday, September 8, 2020. Curriculum resources will be distributed to students who will be learning from home the week of August 31st. A schedule of pick up dates will be forthcoming.

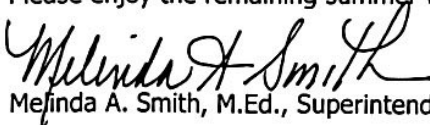
The district will also be scheduling the distribution of Chromebooks and laptops to students by grade level. This schedule will be released early next week.

In closing, I want to thank the parents who attended the five informational forums that were held over the past two weeks. I hope that we were able to provide some clarity to a very complex school reopening. If you have any questions, please contact your child's principal, or email us at:

Re-Entry@thompsonpublicschools.org

Please continue to look for school reopening updates by email, phone, or text. If you missed any information, it can be found on the district's website: <http://district.thompsonk12.org/>

Please enjoy the remaining summer weeks,


Melinda A. Smith, M.Ed., Superintendent
