

3.9.2021

Dear Charter Arts Community,

Over the course of this year, our Administrative team and school nurse have been in communication with health consultants and representatives from Intermediate Unit 20, Pennsylvania Department of Education, St. Luke's University Health Network, and the Bethlehem Health Bureau to discuss our unique needs and challenges as a regional charter school with an artistic focus.

Given these conversations, we are now strongly considering the implementation of hybrid learning (Plan B) during Quarter 4, as previously outlined in our Health and Safety Plan, but have not made a final decision.

As a reminder, Plan B includes:

- Two days of in-person instruction
- Two days of synchronous remote instruction
- Wednesdays remaining asynchronous

While we recently asked for feedback, not all families completed our survey. Therefore, we do not have accurate data regarding who would choose hybrid or remote instruction for the remainder of the school year. **Gathering this information from families is vital to our decision-making process, as we must know exactly how many students to plan for in each classroom throughout the day to ensure effective mitigation strategies outlined by the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), including social distancing of six feet.**

EVERY FAMILY IS REQUIRED to complete a commitment survey for each child who attends Charter Arts by no later than 5 p.m. on SUNDAY, MARCH 14. Please read these important points before using the link below to complete the survey:

- Your survey answers will lock in your preference for the remainder of this school year.
- Students will not be permitted to switch from remote to hybrid once the survey is completed and the school board makes a final decision.
- **If you do not complete the survey by the deadline, your child will be assigned to remote learning for the remainder of the school year.**
- If Charter Arts moves to a hybrid learning plan, in-person opportunities will not be available for those who choose the remote option.
- Please review [THIS](#) document to learn which days your child will be assigned, should they participate in hybrid learning, as their days are pre-determined based on their district of residence. At this time, we cannot accommodate change requests, and we reserve the right to adjust district assignments as needed to ensure balanced student attendance on in-person days.
- [CLICK HERE](#) to complete the **REQUIRED** survey now!

If our Administrative team recommends a switch to hybrid learning, the school board would need to vote to approve that change. **We do not anticipate implementing any change to our instructional plan for students prior to May 3,**

as we need to build in a transition period for employees and students, communicate with sending school districts regarding transportation, and conduct additional employee training and freshman/transfer orientation to the building.

Our school nurse will conduct contact tracing with support from the Bethlehem Health Bureau. If your child presents COVID symptoms at school or is identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive, a parent or guardian will be required to come to Charter Arts to pick them up, as we will not permit that child to ride district transportation home. Other important information, which may help you make a determination about what is right for your family, can be found in our [Health and Safety Plan](#), which was approved by our School Board in August.

Finally, last week, Gov. Wolf announced that Pennsylvania would prioritize teachers with the recent release of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

- For more information about PDE's prioritization of vaccinations for elementary teachers and those who work in close contact with students for sustained periods of time, including special education teachers, click [HERE](#).
- Charter Arts was allocated five vaccines in the initial round of statewide distribution for educators. We are waiting for more information regarding the second round of vaccine distribution later this month, and we hope to get enough vaccines at that time for all interested employees.

Thank you in advance for your continued support. We will share additional information regarding Quarter 4 once a decision has been made. Until then, all students will continue to learn in the remote, synchronous setting. As a reminder, please [CLICK HERE](#) to complete the survey now.

All the best,

The Administrative Team