



April 16, 2021

SLSD Parents and Guardians,

Thank you to the students, staff, and families of the Southern Lehigh School District who continue to go above and beyond alongside one another as we navigate the 20/21 school year together. It is within this partnership that we are able to continue to maintain in-person instruction despite the continued regional uptick in COVID-19 cases. Please continue to follow the SLSD mitigation practices including having your student(s) stay home when they are sick. Listed below are several updates;

- **2021-2022 SLSD School Calendar** - On Monday, the Board of School Directors approved the Academic Calendar for the 21/22 School Year. While this is a routine action, it represents the initial planning for the coming school year. Outlined below are critical points that I felt were essential to share with the SLSD school community;
 - Southern Lehigh schools will be **OPEN FOR IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION FIVE DAYS PER WEEK** for the 2021/2022 School Year.
 - Neither the PADOH or PDE have provided any long range updates to the type of COVID-19 mitigation measures that they will mandate for the fall. The SLSD will continue to partner with local public health officials and medical professionals from the St. Luke's University Health Network and Lehigh Valley Health Network to shape the SLSD mitigation practices for the 21/22 school year.
- **State Standardized Testing Reminder** - On March 26th, the District communicated SLSD's plan for administering the PSSA and Keystone Exams. This information is also available on the SLSD Website under the [20-21 PSSA/Keystone Info Tab](#). Families interested in opting their student out of the required 20-21 PA Standardized Assessments can find more information about that process via the following [link](#).
- **Pennsylvania Vaccine Update** - The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has opened COVID-19 vaccination eligibility to all interested individuals ages 16+. Regionally, interested persons can schedule a vaccine appointment at a variety of providers including the [SLUHN](#), [LVHN](#), [Allentown Health Bureau](#), and [Bethlehem Health Bureau](#).

Please continue to complete [Daily Symptom Screening](#) with your student(s) as this procedure remains critical in helping to ensure that the school buildings remain open for in-person instruction. Please stress with your students the importance of maintaining our mitigation practices like wearing well-fitted face coverings, frequently washing/sanitizing hands, maintaining a physical distance, avoiding interactions with those outside your household, and limiting travel. Have a relaxing weekend!

Kathleen Evison
Superintendent