

Delivering Extraordinary Value to Families

Steel Valley School District

District Administrative Offices

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Edward Wehrer Superintendent

February 5, 2021

Dear Steel Valley Families,

I hope you are healthy and well. The Steel Valley staff and administration have worked together to provide different learning options for our students and families, and we have listened to your feedback. Some families want their children in school full-time. Other families want live remote instruction for their children. Both requests are valid, and this is how we are planning to address the realities of the pandemic and the needs of our community.

Beginning on Tuesday, February 16, remote learning will be enhanced through the use of livestreaming technology. Live instruction will be available to our remote students through Zoom meetings of our hybrid in-person instruction. Students will access their Zoom meetings through links on Google Classroom. Adapting to this new technology integration will be a challenge for our teachers, and technical issues may arise, so I ask that everyone be patient during the transition. Livestreaming will not have the same level of teacher interaction with the remote students as our synchronous instruction, but our teachers will continue to be available at the end of the day to answer questions from them.

On Monday, March 1, all of our in-person learners will attend school Monday through Thursday. Livestreaming will remain in place for our remote learners. Fridays will remain the same as they are now, with synchronous remote instruction in the morning and asynchronous assignments in the afternoon. Building principals will share additional information next week.

In preparation for our students' return to their classrooms, administration has taken steps to ensure that our buildings are safe. We will follow the procedures and policies in our Health and Safety Plan about wearing masks, maximizing physical distancing and following other COVID mitigation guidelines. Nevertheless, everyone still must be prepared to move back to fully remote instruction with very little notice. This can happen because of weather or because we reach a certain threshold of COVID-19 cases. If the district or an individual building moves to remote learning, whether for a single day or longer, the instruction will be done synchronously (like we have done most of this school year) through Zoom links in Google Classroom.

Since the school year began in the fall, we have overcome many challenges and have worked hard to balance safety with the educational needs of our students. We sincerely appreciate your continued support and flexibility. Please reach out to your building principal if you have any questions or concerns. As a reminder, no school will take place on Monday, February 15.

Sincerely,

Edward Wehrer Superintendent