



UTICA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Bruce J. Karam
Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am writing to inform you that on Tuesday, August 25, 2020, the Utica City School District Board of Education approved a plan to reopen all schools on Tuesday, September 8, 2020 with full remote instruction for the safety and well-being of our students, teachers, staff and their families. This is a change from the plan that was approved by the Board of Education on Tuesday, July 28, 2020 in which our elementary students were originally scheduled to report for a blend of in-person instruction two days per week and remote learning on the other three days.

This decision was not an easy one and was made following much careful consideration of numerous factors including input from parents, teachers, staff, and community members following a series of meetings held over the past couple of weeks. These meetings included parent forums held on August 13, 2020, August 14, 2020, and August 17, 2020 and a special meeting of the Board of Education held on Tuesday, August 18, 2020 at which time the President of the Teachers' Union addressed the Board.

Our teachers and students at the elementary level will log onto the *Google Classroom* and follow their normal school day, beginning September 8, 2020 from 9:05 A.M. to 3:05 P.M. During the day, a combination of live instruction and varied learning activities designed to meet the appropriate educational and developmental levels of the students will be delivered remotely by your child's classroom teacher and special area teachers (i.e. Physical Education, Art, Music, Library, etc.). Students at the high school and middle schools will be logging in for live instruction beginning on September 8, 2020 according their normal daily schedules which were mailed home last week. Principals will be supervising remote instruction and monitoring student attendance. Our support staff will also be assisting in providing services remotely and working to meet the social emotional needs of the students.

Elementary school principals have prepared a communication for parents along with important information about remote learning, including how to access their teacher remotely each day and procedures for requesting any needed technology, including a *Chromebook* or a mobile Wi-Fi connection. A similar communication was sent last week to all middle and high school parents along with student schedules.

The school district will continue to examine the situation very carefully, including monitoring the scientific data on COVID-19 in our community and our region until such time that we are able to begin allowing students to return to in-person instruction along with remote learning according to the original hybrid plan.

Once again, we thank all of you for your support and understanding during these unprecedented times.

Sincerely,

Bruce J. Karam
Superintendent of Schools