



July 20, 2020

Dear School District of Washington Families,

I want to begin by stating how grateful I am to work with such tremendous people. There have been many individuals who have spent a great deal of time since March planning for the summer, and the 2020-2021 school year. The task is overwhelming at times, but they just roll up their sleeves and get to work, doing the very best they can.

At this time, I want to provide an overview of the plans being made. The overview document outlines a green, yellow, and red plan, any of which could be implemented at any given time as circumstances change. After months of weekly meetings with area school district leaders, medical professionals, and public health officials, as well as analysis of data from parent and staff surveys, the plans have been developed and aligned.

Please know how much we appreciate the parents for completing the survey. As you might imagine, there are many different views. As a school district, we take this feedback and compare it to what advisement we are receiving from our local and state health departments, medical experts, and the variety of other organizations assisting school districts with pandemic response. We had 1866 responses to our survey. 69.8% responded they were slightly to very concerned about their child's safe return to school. Survey respondents also seemed most concerned about sanitizing and cleaning procedures as well as the ability to social distance. In terms of the response to "how school should resume," 47.5% feel school should resume with in-person instruction with added safety measures, 20.5% of parents feel a plan for all three (in person, hybrid schedule, and e-learning/online) should be developed, and 16.9% feel the District should provide an e-learning option. Meanwhile, 15% indicated we should go completely back to normal operation.

In addition to parents, we also surveyed our staff. The results of the surveys can be found on our website at [www.washington.k12.mo.us](http://www.washington.k12.mo.us). Thank you to those who took the time to provide feedback.

The overview document identifying our general plans has been provided to give some advance notice. A detailed plan outlining numerous protocols is under final development and will be presented to the Board of Education at their July 29, 2020 meeting. The entire plan will then be shared with the public. A decision regarding how we start the year will be announced by August 10.

Parent Choice e-learning (online virtual courses) registration will begin July 21 and run through July 30. Registration documents can be found on our website (address above).

We appreciate everyone's cooperation as we plan forward and kick off the 2020-2021 school year. If we continue to work together, we will persevere and make the most of this bad situation. One thing is for sure, we can't wait to see our students again. Ultimately, we want to be in school with healthy kids and staff!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori VanLeer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Lori VanLeer  
Superintendent of Schools