

Dear Parents:

First, let me thank you for your support and understanding as we, as a nation and community, continue to responded to the unexpected invasion of COVID-19. I am very proud of the way our Prep students, parents, employees, and community leaders have handled the demands we were faced with to protect everyone as we continued to educate our students during the most unusual of circumstances. As you know, there continues to be concerns and questions related to how schools plan to reopen in September 2020. While we are in the business of educating, our first priority is the safety of our students and our employees.

We have gathered input from parents, employees, community stakeholders, administrators, state leaders, the Pennsylvania Department of Education, and medical professionals via surveys, Zoom parent forums, committees, and our own Prep Pandemic Task Force. As a result of this input, we have published a comprehensive *Health & Safety Plan*, which can be found on our website.

After evaluating all of the input we have received, it is our decision that **Prep Charter will start the school year on September 8 on a full Virtual Model**. The virtual model Prep will be using in September has some important changes and improvements over the model that was used last Spring. All students will participate in the learning of new material, continued standard pacing, interactive lessons, graded assignments, and assessments. Please refer to the grade level schedules for the **Virtual Model** posted on Prep's website. These schedules will provide an hour by hour outline for each day of the week, including the times that teachers will be conducting lessons live via the computer.

I encourage our parents to frequently visit our webpage and follow our social media for up to date and accurate information. There are many false rumors being disseminated which leads to unnecessary confusion. Everyone must understand there is no way for us to please all as we make these decisions. Our priority is to keep everyone safe while not making life more difficult for our parents. Each family situation is uniquely different. We fully understand your varied concerns about health and safety, distance learning, the importance of face-to-face instruction, parents needing to work, the economy, and all of the other unexpected consequences of not being in school in the traditional way.

Although the feedback was overwhelmingly in favor of a virtual start to school, over 80% of parents were in favor of students coming to the school for a day or two at the beginning of the school year in smaller, controlled groups to meet their teachers, be issued their Chromebooks and receive initial training on the Schoology Learning Management System which we will be using to deliver virtual instruction. Please continue to check Prep's website and social media for important information about the dates and times for those orientation sessions.

Again, thank you for your continued support and positivity as we strive to do what is best for ALL of our students and employees during these challenging times.

Sincerely,

David (Pat) Wright

CEO