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Greetings George-Little Rock Families,

Welcome to the 2020-2021 School Year. I hope this letter finds everyone safe and healthy. If we haven't met yet, my name is Tom Luxford, and I am your new superintendent of schools for George-Little Rock. I promise to do my best to make sure that everyone feels that they are part of the Mustang family. My family and I moved to George in mid-June, and we are extremely proud and excited to be a part of the G-LR family. My wife and I feel so blessed that our children will be benefactors of this dynamic educational system, and we feel fortunate to be part of the GLR school community.

I would like to inform you about the status of our George-Little Rock Return-to-Learn Plan and the reopening of our schools for the 2020-2021 school year. The Department of Education has provided us with guidance in developing our plan. The challenging part is merging the Department of Education guidelines for teaching and learning with the Department of Public Health guidance for health and safety measures. This is an ongoing process and will continue until summer ends and school begins.

Our District Leadership Team has been engaging in the important planning for the reopening of school at George-Little Rock. We are communicating with all of the necessary experts, so that we do what is best for all stakeholders. Our overall focus is on addressing technology and infrastructure needs, health and safety needs, Iowa academic standards, social-emotional-behavioral health, equity and data to guide our actions. While our plan is not complete at this time, we certainly understand that families want to know more about returning to school, so here are some of the key pieces of our tentative George-Little Rock Return-to-Learn plan:

1. We are planning for three different learning models for the 2020-2021 school year. We may need to move from one model to another throughout the school year, depending on local health concerns.
 - a. **Model A** On-Site Learning Model - all students would be in school and the district would have processes and procedures in place to mitigate against the virus.
 - b. **Model B** Hybrid - some students would be learning in school while others are learning at home. If this is the case, we would set up groups of students such as an A group and a B group, identifying a schedule for when students would be in school and not in school. This model may also be used when most students are in school, but there are some who are unable to be in school due to their own health concerns or health concerns of their family members.



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- c. **Model C** Required Continuous Learning Off-Site - students will not attend school and would learn at home either online or using other instructional materials. In this model, staff would provide instruction virtually and would also be prepared to provide support virtually to students.
2. Our first day of school is Monday, August 24. We will be operating in one of the three models listed above. **It is likely that we will be using an on-site learning model, but conditions may dictate that we will be using another learning model.** The decision about the learning model will be made through consultation with the Community Health Partners and the Iowa Department of Education.
3. Face coverings - at this time our plan does not require, but certainly allows masks and face coverings. This could change based upon updated guidance from the Department of Public Health and the Department of Education.
4. We are continuing to develop a plan for school transportation. Current guidance suggests that- to the extent possible- we provide for social distancing on school buses, and that we recommend masks or face coverings for passengers. We are exploring options for providing the safest transportation possible, which would require a limited number of passengers at one time. With this in mind, we will encourage families, who are able, to provide transportation for their child or children.
5. We will continue developing health and safety procedures as well as cleaning and disinfecting procedures that will be in place for the 2020-2021 school year.

We are working with the Community Health Partners and the Iowa Department of Health to clarify plans for how we respond if/when we have positive cases of COVID-19 in our school buildings.

As we plan for returning to school, please be patient. We are doing our best to create the safest environment for our students and staff yet providing quality education by promoting lifelong learning.

Sincerely,



Tom Luxford, Superintendent
George-Little Rock School District