



February 22, 2021

Dear LGSUHSD Community,

We hope this email finds you and your family well. We are writing to provide an update on our campus reopening plans and to reiterate our collective commitment to opening our schools for in-person learning for all in the coming weeks. As you know, last week we conducted a commitment survey for the first phase of our campus reopening and 62% of our families indicated their student would return to campus as part of Phase 3A. This information allows us to assign students to cohorts and complete all of the final logistical planning to ensure a smooth campus reopening - we are actively working on this now. We also want to address some of the frequent questions we receive about future plans - these are included below.

When will our schools open for in-person activities?

Our schools have been hosting on-campus small cohort group activities since last June with the number of participating students growing over time to close to 1000 students, and we will continue to expand those opportunities until the time that our campuses are open to all students. The timing of opening campuses to all students will be dependent upon one of two conditions:

- Our county enters the Orange Tier of the state's tiered COVID-19 Blueprint
- OR**
- We are in the Red Tier and our teachers have had the opportunity to be vaccinated

What is the current status on reaching the conditions to reopen?

We cannot precisely predict when either of the two conditions for reopening our campuses will occur because they are based upon public health metrics that are not within our control. We are closely monitoring our county metrics and vaccine availability and, based upon current trends in the two metrics that determine our county's tier status (Adjusted Case Rate & Test Positivity Rate) and the Tier Assignment released by the state today (2/23/21) our county remains in the Purple Tier for another week which was somewhat unexpected. We anticipate that our county will move into the Red Tier next week and likely into the Orange Tier by the second or third week of March. Obviously, this can change based upon community health conditions, but this is what we currently anticipate and what we are currently planning for. Last week, we did receive the good news that educators will be eligible for vaccination as of February 28th. We are hopeful that all of our teachers who chose to do so will be vaccinated by the end of March or early April, but this is dependent upon the availability of vaccines and vaccination appointments.

When will we transition from Phase 3A (modified hybrid) to Phase 3B (full hybrid)?

The primary goal of Phase 3A is to allow students and staff to transition back to on-campus, in-person activities in a safe manner, to learn how to implement safety protocols, and learn how to implement dual instruction (some students in-person, some at home) before we implement this more broadly for all classes. We anticipate that we will remain in Phase 3A for a short period of time (3-4 weeks) in order for students and staff to practice these things and then transition to Phase 3B. Our ideal timeline would be to transition to Phase 3B shortly after Spring Break as the transition to 3B will be a significant change from the current instructional model and it would be ideal to make this sort of transition as close as possible to the beginning of a new grading period. As a reminder, students who do not feel comfortable returning to in-person instruction will have the option to continue with full remote learning.

Why are we doing Phase 3 in two parts (3A/3B)?

This approach continues our gradual approach to expanding in-person learning that we believe provides the best way for all students and staff to return to campus safely, with the least disruption to instruction and learning. Phase 3A allows us to minimize the risk of future cohort or whole campus shutdowns, validate that our safety protocols are working correctly and that we can meet the technical challenges of simultaneous remote and in-person synchronous learning. Once we are confident that we are able to meet these challenges, then we will move forward into Phase 3B.

What will 3B look like?

We are currently finalizing the details of the 3B plan and will share this early next week. Regardless of the specific schedule, 3B will include two cohorts of students with each cohort attending all of their classes in-person over two days per week (one day with their odd class periods and one day with their even class periods). On the days that students are not on campus, they will participate in remote online learning. Implementation of 3B this spring will allow us to learn from and make refinements to a full hybrid model in case we need to implement it in the fall.

Will we return to a “normal” school schedule in the fall?

This is our strident hope and we remain optimistic that we will be able to do so. Ultimately, our ability to return to a normal school schedule will be determined by the state and county rules in place at that time, which is out of our control and impossible to predict at this point. We are optimistic about and will plan for a normal opening in August and will only revert to a hybrid model if it is required.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our students and our schools - we look forward to seeing you on campus in the near future.

Michael Grove
LGSUHSD Superintendent

David Guidry
LGSUHSD Board President