



July 9, 2020

Hello ACPA Community,

I hope everyone is staying healthy, safe and engaged in some growth-oriented and fulfilling learning this summer. I want to provide you with an update on our plans for returning to school at ACPA in the fall. Administration has been working hard to determine the best plan to educate ACPA students with our community's overall health and safety as the top priority. Our desire is to implement a hybrid plan in both the middle and high school in which some students will be in the building for classes and some will be learning virtually at home, on a rotating schedule. We also plan to offer an all virtual, at home option for families who feel it is safest for students to stay home.

Recently, Columbus City Schools (CCS) announced that, district-wide, CCS high school students will not be in their buildings in the fall. While ACPA has the ability to develop and implement our own education plan, we do not have control over bussing for ACPA students who reside in the CCS district (which is over half of our student population). CCS communicated that because they are not bussing CCS high school students, they will not be bussing ACPA high school students or other charter high school students. This throws a substantial wrench in our initial plan.

We are putting pressure on CCS to develop a transportation plan that allows ACPA to equitably implement the hybrid learning model that will best serve our students' achievement and wellness. **We are asking for your help in engaging with CCS to request the same.** There are instructions for speaking with the Columbus Board of Education included at the end of this e-mail, and contact information for CCS Superintendent.

We will continue to develop the hybrid model for ACPA high school students in hopes that transportation becomes more equitable or we find another solution. Should these transportation restraints prove to prohibit this plan, ACPA will plan to implement an all virtual model for high school students. Ms. Waluzak will be communicating a detailed and comprehensive plan by the end of next week.

CCS has communicated that bussing **will be available for ACPA middle school students.** The middle school plan is to implement a hybrid learning model on a rotating schedule. Look for an e-mail from Ms. Fingerhut next week for details of that plan.



As we've discovered in the last few months, COVID is unpredictable. With the recent rise in confirmed cases over the last few weeks in Franklin County, we may be faced with new challenges or even another mandated shut down in the near future. We are confident in our capacity to implement the plans we are creating in response to future developments, and, as always, will keep you informed as we make decisions with the health and safety of our community as the top priority.

Please feel free to reach out to Ms. Fingerhut (fingerhut@artcollegeprep.org), Ms. Waluzak (waluzak@artcollegeprep.org) or myself (gatto@artcollegeprep.org) with questions or ideas.

Thank you for your continued support and looking forward to seeing everyone soon,

Mr. Gatto
Executive Director

To register to give public comment at the Columbus City School's board meeting at 5:30pm on August 4th, email customerrelations@columbus.k12.oh.us and provide your name and phone number. You will receive a phone call and be signed up via phone. Each person who wants to speak will have 4 minutes to do so. Or, contact the office of Talisa Dixon, CCS Superintendent at (614) 365-5000.