August 11, 2020

Good Afternoon Fellow Shorians,

I hope this note finds you well and trying to manage what can only be described as the most challenging situation we will all face as parents and members of the Lake Shore community. I am proud that while we may have a difference of opinion on certain aspects of this situation we face, we continue to work collectively on advancing the opportunities for our children to return to learning in a safe fashion. While there is still work to be done, we are in the process of finalizing the efforts of nearly 200 staff, parents, community members, health care professionals, and students for presentation to the Lake Shore Board of Education Wednesday evening. Thank you to those involved for your tireless effort to develop a plan that fits the needs of our families while balancing the public health concerns and safety concerns of our staff and students.

Many of our families have already made a decision to enroll in a 100% on-line learning format. I’m certain that this was not an easy decision to reach. For all of our families, please know that my heart goes out to you for having to make decisions of this nature. Please also know that we will be as flexible and accommodating as possible throughout this time period and should you feel the need to switch to in person, we will work with you to do what is best for your child. Nothing is written in stone, we are here for our families at any point.

If this is a decision you have reached, you can begin your registration for 100% on-line learning at the following link:


Please complete this registration as soon as possible so we can begin building your child’s schedule.

We have included an Online Readiness tool for your consideration in assessing your student’s readiness and potential support needed for online learning. Click here to access the tool:

The LSPS Virtual Learning Option provides the same rigorous curriculum offered during our in-person learning; taught by our caring, certified Lake Shore teaching staff. A Shorian student is a Shorian student, regardless of where the learning occurs.

The Lake Shore Virtual Learning Option assures:

- Online learning opportunities for students in grades K – 12
- Ability to choose to return to in-person instruction at semester/trimester onsets.
- Courses housed in the Schoology platform.
• A combination of live and recorded lessons in addition to independent learning activities.
• Virtual real-time instruction and/or connection.
• Non-digital learning experiences and material.
• Access to most classes offered in person at our buildings
• Access to academic counseling and other services available to Lake Shore students.
• Support services related to IEPs, 504s, academic support, and social/emotional concerns will be provided.
• Opportunity to participate in extra-curricular and athletic activities.
• Ability for parents to monitor learning experiences, feedback and assessment with a parent Schoology account.

Please take into consideration we have found that students who succeed in online learning:

• Have a structure in place at home to engage in learning activities.
• Create a weekly/daily work agenda to develop time management skills and ensure students stay on track with due dates.
• Have adult support at home to provide guidance and assistance, especially with elementary age children.
• Work well independently.

Finally, for those that desire in-person instruction, the Board of Education will be presented with the Lake Shore Public Schools MiSafe Return to Learning Plan for approval, on Wednesday, August 12th at 7:30 p.m. This Special Meeting of the Board of Education will be livestreamed at https://youtu.be/nTpz8PZQqVU for public viewing. The MiSafe Return to Learning Plan will detail the options available to students and families, including the Virtual Learning Option. At that time, all of our families will begin the difficult process of deciding what is best for their child. There is no right or wrong answer. There is only what is best under very difficult circumstances. In spite of whatever decision is made please know that Lake Shore Public Schools is absolutely committed to providing the optimal level of flexibility and responsiveness to our students and our families in the time of crisis.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at 586-285-8483.

Sincerely,

Dr. Joseph DiPonio
Superintendent
Lake Shore Public Schools