Dear Parents/Guardians:          July 8, 2020

Yesterday during a special called Board of Education meeting, the district updated the plan for the 2020-21 school year. This includes a new start date of August 12, 2020 while still providing an in-person and digital option for each student. The district sent an email on June 29th to the enrolling parent of every GCPS student. In that email, you were asked to select one of two options for each student in regards to their preferred way to return to school:

1. In-person instruction

2. Digital learning at home

If you haven’t had an opportunity to make that selection, please click here to access a form or you should receive an additional link from the district today. Once you have completed the form, you will be emailed a survey link where you can make your selection for each child. All selections need to be completed by Sunday, July 12th at 11:59 PM. Upon making your selection, you will receive verification for your student.

I wanted to provide you some information that can assist you in making this decision. Both in-person and digital instruction will be provided and taught by teachers at Duluth High School. Based on the eCLASS work we have been doing, we are able to execute both at a high level. Regardless of your selection, all students will be expected to participate during the school hours of 7:00 AM – 2:10 PM and attendance will be taken every period, every day.

The expectations for students participating in digital learning will be the same as for those attending face-to-face school in terms of attendance, grading, and accountability. They will be expected to log in and participate in class during the school day. Participation will not be optional. Please understand that grading and deadlines will not be as flexible as last spring when we were attempting to close out a year that had been partially completed. Please expect digital instruction to be as rigorous as face-to-face instruction.

I am sorry students, but you will not be able to sleep in and then do your assignments at midnight. Teachers will be working a normal school day and will not be able to be available for the same extended hours as in the spring.

In addition, students who choose digital learning will need individual access to reliable internet and devices, preferably a computer or Chromebook. Sharing a device is not recommended as multiple students in a family will be participating in digital learning at the same time during the same day. If you need assistance with providing a Chromebook to your child, please reach out to the school as we have a limited amount available for checkout.
Regardless of the option you choose, I want to encourage parents to consider purchasing a Chromebook or other laptop for their student if they are able. Covid 19 will make sharing devices harder for both in-person instruction and digital instruction. If you are able, a Chromebook will be a valuable learning tool for the upcoming school year.

For those of you considering the in-person option, all of our faculty, staff, and students will be required to wear masks or face coverings. While social distancing will be a challenge, we will minimize contact by limiting traffic in our halls and stairwells to one direction where possible, using touchless devices in the place of keypads, sanitizing more frequently, and providing hand-sanitizer throughout the building.

The district has also provided many resources, including a Frequently Asked Questions document, to assist you in your decision making. To access these resources please click here.

If you already submitted your form and would like to change your decision, you can resubmit the form and it will default to your more recent selection. While these are challenging times, we are committed to meeting the needs of all of our students regardless if they are learning in-person or digitally.

Sincerely,

Eric Davidson
Principal
Duluth High School