



MYRON L. POWELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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"The mission of Myron L. Powell School is to encourage, guide, and support well-rounded citizens who reach their highest potential, becoming life-long learners who contribute to society in a meaningful way."

August 18, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians of MLP Students,

After extensive discussions and careful consideration, the Myron L. Powell School will begin our year with **100% Full-Time Remote Learning for all students**. The Lawrence Township Board of Education, the Cedarville Teachers Association and I are all in support of delaying our school's re-opening for the first five weeks of the year. In collaboration with ALL other Superintendents in Cumberland County, all public schools in our county will provide full-time remote instruction to start the year, and plan to re-open our buildings to students on **Tuesday, October 13th**.

Since June 26th, when the Governor released the guidance to re-open our schools, we have re-written policies and ordering new items to fulfill the health and safety directives. Many of those items such as portable sinks, plexiglass dividers and air purifying systems will not arrive until September, therefore we would not be in compliance with the NJDOE guidance to re-open. Additionally, we were given information recently that raises questions concerning the availability and accessibility to COVID-19 testing, and the delayed rate of results up to 6-days. With everyone in our county preparing to re-open, it is vital that we have full confidence in those who are guiding these decisions. It became clear this week that we simply need more time to meet the high expectations required to ensure everyone's health and safety to the extent possible.

Please know that we are aware that this creates challenges for our families. Many of our own staff have children who will be remote learning as well. All of us have been forced to make major adjustments in our lives and in our homes during the past several months. I know this has not been easy, and I am proud of everyone for their efforts, flexibility and patience during these most trying times.

Our staff have greatly improved our on-line instruction methods and classes are more robust than during our surprise spring semester! I know you will be pleased with the structure, cohesiveness and creativity of your child's on-line schedule. Chromebooks will be provided to all students and hot spots are available to those without connectivity. You will receive information soon on dates to pick-up a Chromebook as well as school supplies to begin our 100% remote year, which will start on **Tuesday, September 8th**.

Please know that our Board of Education and staff want nothing more than to get students back in school. Your school family misses the special in-person moments as much as you do. We will be together soon!

As always, thank you for your support of the Myron L. Powell School!

Shelley Magan

Dr. Shelley Magan, Chief School Administrator