Dear Parents and Guardians,

This note is a reminder that to help us with planning and delivery of instruction, we ask parents to commit to either the hybrid or remote learning format through the end of the second trimester. To simplify things for parents, we would like you to fill out a form if you have chosen hybrid but plan to keep your child learning remotely -- effective January 19 through March 31, the end of the trimester. This will assist us greatly with planning. We will assume that if you have already selected "Remote," that you will continue with this unless you contact your principal to request a change to hybrid.

The only parents who need to fill out a form are those who have selected hybrid but whose children are learning remotely (this does not include quarantines or illnesses.) Please complete these "Move to Remote" forms by Friday, January 15, if you would like to keep your child learning remotely until March 31. By doing so, you will **not** forfeit an in-person seat for the third trimester.

Form for Elementary Students

Form for Secondary Students

Parents of WC Cyber Program students do not need to respond. If you have questions about the cyber program, please contact <u>Rebecca Eberly</u> at the elementary level or <u>Kristen Barnello</u> at the secondary level.

Why are we asking for this? As previously communicated, like many districts across our region, we are seeing fewer students attend class in person, especially at our middle and high schools. Some of our classrooms are nearly empty. We have spoken with many parents and students about the various reasons for this. Most have told us that pandemic in-person instruction is not as enjoyable, and, as classroom numbers have fallen, it is less engaging to be there and many more are, in turn, are opting to stay home. Understandably, students do not want to sit in an empty classroom while their classmates are learning online. We hope that as more students come back to the classroom, the experience will become more enjoyable. We know our teachers are working incredibly hard to balance different modes of instruction. Committing to a learning model will also help our teachers with planning.

Having this information will also allow us to determine where we may have additional space in our classrooms that can be used to offer four-day a week, in-person seats to students who our instructional teams have identified as struggling and in the most need of in-person support. Since Monday, nearly 1,200 students have moved from hybrid to remote for the duration of the trimester.

If you select hybrid, you may still temporarily keep your child home, learning remotely, in the case of quarantine, illness, etc. We are simply trying to get a better sense of how much space we truly have in our classrooms that could be offered to students who would greatly benefit from in-person instruction.

This year has been incredibly challenging, and we are trying to give our students as many inperson opportunities as possible. The Chester County Health Department, the PA Department of Education, and most major medical organizations are still strongly recommending 6 feet of social distancing. This impacts our ability to bring every student back to our schools every day.

Please visit our FAQs for additional information.

We very much want to have our students back in person and are hopeful the spring will bring dramatic improvements in our ability to move toward normalcy.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jim Scanlon, Superintendent

