



RINGGOLD SCHOOL DISTRICT

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August 13, 2020

Dear Ringgold Family,

I hope this correspondence finds you and your family safe, and well. For the last few weeks I have been writing to provide updates and answers to frequently asked questions that we have been gathering and receiving. In addition to the FAQ's that are included in this letter (and can be accessed by clicking [here](#)) I wanted to provide additional information and to update you on new guidance that we received early this week from the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Department of Health

In that guidance, the Department of Health has issued their guidance on "*Determining Instructional Models During the Covid-19 Pandemic. Recommendations for Pre K-12 Schools.*" The guidance can be viewed by clicking [here](#). In the guidance, the Department of Education published the following:

"It is important to note that a safe return to in-person instruction will look different across every school, district, and county depending on a variety of factors, one of which is the spread of COVID-19. School entity decisions on instructional models require a great deal of consideration of local factors including size of the school entity, classroom size, school resources, proportion of staff and students with special needs and underlying health conditions, and the ability to accommodate remote learning with equal access for all students.

The recommendations contained in this guidance rely on two standard public health metrics: incident rate and the percent positivity of diagnostic testing. These metrics are available for every county in Pennsylvania on the [COVID-19 Early Warning Monitoring System Dashboard](#)."

While the development and release of the "*Determining Instructional Models During the Covid-19 Pandemic. Recommendations for Pre K-12 Schools*" came as a surprise to schools across the Commonwealth, we were pleased that the instructional models that we are using and the approved Health and Safety Plan are aligned to this new and recent guidance.

I again want to take this time to thank our parents, staff, administrators and all who continue to work diligently to ensure that our students are able to return to instruction, and that there are varied choices for doing so. We know that despite our very best efforts, there will be "hiccups" along the way that may require continued, real time adjustments. As unsettling as that reality is for all of us, we continue to take great comfort in knowing that we are surrounded by our Ringgold family and friends. Together, we will continue to do great things for our students.

~ Preparing students today for the challenges of tomorrow ~

I want to also take this time to ask for your continued assistance with two requests. First, for those who have not yet chosen a model of instruction I want to remind you to do so this week. This will allow us to continue in our preparations for the 2020-2021 school year and to ensure that students and staff are prepared for the start of the new year. My second request is for those who have not yet requested a laptop (last year) and are in need of technology. The technology request form can be accessed [here](#). Again, your assistance in completing this form will allow us to plan for the distribution of technology in an efficient and orderly way. *Please request a Ringgold Chromebook if you do **not** have one **and** according to the guidelines below for the three learning options.*

*Option 1: Traditional Return to School- A Chromebook is **Required***

*Option 2: Online Schooling Model- A Chromebook is **Optional***

*Option 3: Ringgold Cyber Academy- A Chromebook is **Optional***

Thank you again for all of your support as we continue to move the District forward.

Sincerely,

Randall Skrinjorich

Randall Skrinjorich
Acting Superintendent