



Pablo Muñoz
Superintendent of Schools

August 28, 2020

Dear Passaic Public Schools Team Members,

Welcome back to the 2020-2021 school year. We are looking forward to welcoming all of our team back on September 8, 2020 and our students on September 10, 2020.

Since the onset of COVID-19, many in Passaic, and across our nation, have been impacted by this horrendous disease. Whether it is financial hardship, sickness, or the loss of a loved one, our hearts are with our colleagues, neighbors, friends, and family during these difficult times. As we begin this school year, we will need to assist and care for one another more than ever.

COVID-19 challenges the very environment under which we want to teach and learn. As students, parents, extended families, and school staff, you exemplify what is great about our Passaic community. We are fortunate to have a team of people who truly care. Our staff has been hard at work during the summer striving to meet the challenging goals to prepare our school district for the new school year. While the end of 2019-20 and the beginning of 2020-21 school years are unprecedented, we must still continue to work towards becoming one of the best school systems in New Jersey by providing an excellent education that prepares our students for college and careers.

On Wednesday, August 12, 2020, the Passaic Board of Education approved its ***Schools Restart and Recovery Plan***, consisting of four (4) phases designed to transition all students and staff back to school as health and safety conditions permit. You can learn more about the plan by going to the district's website at www.passaicschools.org. All students and staff will begin the 2020-2021 school year in Phase 1, Full-Time Remote Home-Based Instruction. Phase 1 will be in effect from September 10, 2020 through October 31, 2020. During September and October, the Passaic Board of Education will monitor the health and safety conditions, statutes, and executive orders, and decide by October 31, 2020 whether to remain in Phase 1 or to move into Phase 2. Please find attached the Opening of Schools Calendar of Events. In addition, please review the 2020-2021 school year calendar at: <https://files.passaicschools.org/districtcalendar/DistrictCalendar.pdf>

I wish to acknowledge and thank our entire school community for their incredible efforts and belief in each other during this difficult time. I have seen firsthand the concern our team members have for one another. I ask that we continue to assist one another until it is safe for all to return to a traditional school setting.

Sincerely,

Pablo Muñoz

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