



## Preparing students for life beyond the classroom

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we near the last day of our ESY Program, we continue to focus on preparing for what September will hold. On June 26<sup>th</sup>, Governor Murphy and the NJ Department of Education announced the release of “The Road Back: Restart and Recovery Plan for Education” to assist schools with reopening in the fall. The guidance announced that, absent a change in public health data, public schools will open for in-person instruction and operations in some capacity at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year. Since this announcement, The Phoenix Center has been working diligently on developing our plan for students and staff to return, in some capacity, to in-person learning in September, while keeping in mind the safety and well-being of all.

In an effort to maintain the recommended social distancing guidance provided as well as the safety and welfare of our students and staff, The Phoenix Center’s Restart and Recovery Plan includes a hybrid model of instruction with a combination of both in-person and virtual learning. The students will be split into two cohorts (Group A and Group B) in order to limit the amount of people in the school building each day and ensure social distancing is being maintained among students, to the best of our ability. We are in the process of solidifying those cohorts based on collaborations with our sending districts and transportation. An overview of what that schedule would look like is such:

- **Group A** students and paraprofessionals will attend in-person instruction on Weeks 1, 3 and so on.
  - **Group B** students and paraprofessionals will simultaneously attend virtual instruction.
- **Group B** students and paraprofessionals will attend in-person instruction on Weeks 2, 4 and so on.
  - **Group A** students and paraprofessionals will simultaneously attend virtual instruction.
- This pattern will continue throughout TPC’s hybrid A/B weekly model.
- All certified staff will provide in-person and virtual instruction from the school building.

In addition to The Phoenix Center’s hybrid model, on Friday, July 24<sup>th</sup>, Governor Murphy announced that all students are eligible for full-time remote learning, at a parent/guardian request; and eligibility cannot be conditioned on a family/guardian demonstrating a risk of illness or other selective criteria. This includes students with disabilities who attend approved private schools. Should you wish to request for your child to continue full-time remote learning, please follow the procedures:

- Parent(s) will submit an email to the Principal, a request for their child to engage in full-time remote learning at the start of the school year in September.
  - Parent request must be received by August 17<sup>th</sup>.
  - Request must include: student’s name, reason for request (i.e. health-related, parent work schedule, etc.) and level of access to technology.
- The administrative team will review the request and contact the sending district to notify them of the full-time remote learning request and determine if an IEP meeting or an amendment to a student’s IEP is needed for full-time remote learning.

- TPC will acknowledge the parent request and respond with a start date for full-time remote learning within five to seven business days.

As a way to share information on returning to school in September, on Thursday, August 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm, The Phoenix Center administration will be hosting a Zoom meeting for parents to present our Restart and Recovery Plan in greater detail, while providing an opportunity to field any questions you may have. Please be sure to also look for an email/Apprise Alert message with details on the time and link for the Restart and Recovery Plan meeting.

While it has been said many times before, this is truly an unprecedented time for all. As educators and parents, we understand the challenges you are facing and the decisions that need to be made are difficult. Please know that our top priority is the safety, security, welfare and education of your child, while trying to take into account the unique circumstances each of you may be facing. We truly are *Phoenix Strong* and will rise up above this together. We are truly grateful for your continued collaboration, support and trust as we navigate these uncharted waters together. We look forward to seeing everyone for our meeting on August 6<sup>th</sup>. As always, our doors are always open for you.

Take care and be well!

Sincerely,



Julie Mower, M.A.Ed.  
Executive Director



Katie Passarotti, M.A.  
Principal