



BETHLEHEM AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

EDUCATION CENTER

1516 Sycamore Street
Bethlehem, PA 18017-6099
610-861-0500

August 6, 2020

Dear BASD Parents, Students, and Community:

We are reversing our course on student extracurricular participation. The administration will recommend to the board that all students, regardless of the educational option chosen, can participate fully in extracurricular activities. We heard your reasons and arguments in support of this change of direction.

The Hybrid Model with 50% of students in attendance, 6 feet social distancing AND required masks at all times for just two days a week is a calibrated reopening that is safe and endorsed by local public health and infectious disease experts and meets CDC guidelines.

However, we understood that some students have underlying health concerns, or their parents do, or their grandparents do. As a result, we created the e-Classroom option along with our already existing cyber academy. These options were intended for people with health issues or related concerns. We assumed that families with health concerns and uncomfortable with their student attending school for only two days a week under the hybrid model, would also not want their student coming to school several days a week to participate in activities. That assumption was wrong as families made their own assessment of the risk for the good of their families.

If you had planned to choose the e-Classroom option and did not because of the earlier decision on extracurricular activities, please contact your school principal by the start of next week.

This is a complex and stressful time for our entire school community. We will continue to do our best to balance protecting the health of our community with offering the best educational program under these pandemic circumstances, while also attempting to meet the varied needs of families.

Sincerely,

Joseph J. Roy, Ed.D
Superintendent of Schools

Michael Faccinetto
President, BASD Board of School Directors