

## September/October Superintendent Message

I am truly excited to begin the start of the 2020-21 school year. Please let me express my sincere gratitude for the support that I have received from the community and staff as I transitioned into my new role from assistant superintendent to superintendent. We realize this school year will present challenges that have never been seen before. Social distancing, face masks, remote education, and more are unique challenges that schools face today; however, we will overcome any obstacles that we may encounter.

We have worked diligently with the Hancock Public Health Department to provide the safest protocols for our students to return to the classroom. The Hancock County/Findlay City Schools Common Reopening Agreement was approved by the Findlay City Schools Board of Education and can be found on the districts website at: [www.fcs.org](http://www.fcs.org).

Contingency plans for the 2020-21 school year were developed using the scenarios described below. The plans are based on guidance from the local health department and Ohio's Health Advisory color-coded alert system.

Please note: FCS will open under the Hybrid Option on September 8th 2020.

- **In-person learning for all students. Yellow Level.** In this scenario, schools will be traditional (in-person) 5 days a week. Schools will follow all recommended safety protocols.
- **Hybrid Model with social distancing and capacity limits. Orange Level.** In this scenario, schools limit the overall number of people in school buildings and on school busses. This option will be two days per week in person and three days working remotely (Hybrid). Currently, 78% of our students will be returning to in-person learning. Students have been divided into two alphabetical groups with last names beginning with A-K reporting to school on Monday and Tuesday while students with the last names L-Z attend in person on Thursday and Friday. Wednesday will be a remote day for all students.
- **Remote only: Red/Purple Level.** This scenario is implemented if local, regional, or statewide COVID-19 statistics worsen enough to close in-person learning.
- **Trojan Academy** is a complete online option for the 2020-21 school year for those families who prefer an online option for their children. Students participating in the Trojan Academy will receive their coursework (instruction, lessons, assessment, etc.) through an online platform (Edmentum 6-12, Calvert Learning K-5). Approximately 22% of our students have enrolled in Trojan Academy.

I am proud of the amount of work the teachers and administrators spent in researching the curriculum and developing the online remote model, Trojan Academy. The hard work and dedication of the staff is to be applauded.

There are a vast number of extracurricular activities available to students and we remain committed to offer those opportunities. Despite some limitations due to COVID-19, extra curricular activities are still taking place under safety guidelines. If an extracurricular activity is forced to suspend their season, or limit activities, we will do everything in our power to maintain some level of involvement and keep our students busy and engaged.

During these challenging times, our Board of Education will continue to remain fiscally responsible and responsive to the community. Despite the challenges surrounding our current school year, the Board of Education will be moving forward with a strategic planning process. Strategic planning takes place on a five-year cycle and we are concluding the fifth year of the previous plan. This is a unique process as it brings stakeholders together to begin to plan and design the course of the next five years for the district. Once completed and adopted, the strategic plan will serve as our “road map” for the district.

We are grateful for the tremendous teamwork we have between parents, teachers and students and we must continue to work together. If you are experiencing any obstacles with your child’s education, please contact your building principal directly and we will collaborate to remedy the situation. I am looking forward to working with you to maintain our tradition of pride and excellence, while providing quality education for our students. Please continue to visit [www.fcs.org](http://www.fcs.org) for updated information.

Go Trojans!

Sincerely,

Mr. Troy Roth, Superintendent