

August 14, 2020

Dear Students and Families:

After much deliberation, we are writing to outline City Charter's revised reopening plans for the Fall trimester. Earlier this week, our Board voted to approve the revised plan. We will be transitioning to a distance learning plan that includes five days of required synchronous (live) online instruction including one optional day per week in person to provide academic and student support services to smaller groups of students. Essentially, we will have a hybrid plan that is different than what we originally planned. More specific information will be shared the week of August 24th including a Student 'How to' Video Guide for the trimester. We believe that this approach will optimize our students' education amidst the pandemic, while at the same time protecting the health and safety of our students, faculty, staff and parents.



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**New information within the past two weeks that factored into this shift is as follows:**

- PDE released guidance on Monday providing [guidelines](#) for reopening based on COVID-19 positivity rates and number of cases by county. These guidelines suggest that full in-person reopening for schools should only occur if there are fewer than 10 COVID cases in the county.
- We received a high number of requests from families to enroll into City High's Virtual Academy. We contracted with Lincoln Learning to augment our in-person model with the intent of a small number of students (10-15%) participating in exclusive online learning. However, we've received requests from approximately 38% of our students with upwards of 50% requesting online learning for two grade levels. We anticipate that this number will continue to grow as we receive new requests daily.
- Remote working requests from staff also factored into this shift.

We think that the revised approach is an enhancement over that used in the third trimester. Students will be required to join live sessions as if they are in the building for a morning or afternoon schedule. Instead of Lincoln Learning, all of our distance learning classes will be taught by City High teachers, which will be our schoolwide approach. **Students in all grades will now start on Monday, August 31st.** Regarding our weekly, in-person student academic and support day, it would run more like a structured study club. It will occur on Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to Noon and 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Students will have the opportunity to sign up weekly to receive in person support according to whether they are scheduled for morning or afternoon sessions. In addition to academic support, we envision that in-person supplemental services as well as Wellness, Post-High School planning, and Technology support would also be scheduled on these days.

I know that we have all been looking forward to returning to school in person. We've been holding out to offer in-person classes even while those around us have moved to online classes and we are confident that we could have reopened safely. However, new factors warranted that we make adjustments to our plan. This shift is a proactive step as we work to assure the health and safety of our students, staff, and your respective families while we also work to prioritize student support. We will continue to monitor the rapidly-changing environment and intend to review our approach with respect to the second trimester as we get closer to it. Thank you for sharing your thoughts and questions over these past couple of months and for your flexibility to positively approach another unprecedented trimester.

Best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dara", written in a cursive style.

Dara Ware Allen, Ph.D.  
CEO and Principal

David Lehman, Esq.  
Board President

