July 28, 2020

Dear Middletown Public Schools Families,

On Monday, July 27, 2020, Governor Lamont announced that all Connecticut school districts will have the autonomy to adopt their preferred alternative model of education. In essence, this decision provides Middletown Public Schools with the flexibility to choose an alternative model that does not compromise high-quality instruction for students, while ensuring that education environments are safe for all.

Enclosed is our 2020 – 2021 plan entitled *The Re-Entry: Getting Back to Innovation and Equity* that outlines the district’s protocols, practices, and procedures in response to the COVID environment. The flexible design of the plan will allow us to address any new recommendations made by Governor Lamont and Commissioner Cardona.

Over the summer the district piloted a hybrid Summer Literacy Academy model with standardized operational, safety, and academic features. Collectively, central office and site-based administrators will take key “lessons learned” from this program to inform the launch of the 2020 – 2021 academic year in August.

Our goal is always to ground your voice in our decision-making processes. As a result of yesterday’s announcement by Governor Lamont, there will be a new Parent Information Form in PowerSchool for families to complete. The form will guide our planning efforts for classroom rosters, bus routes, student cohorts, academic schedules, and safety protocols. Once details are finalized, the Parent Information Form will be out later this week.

Dr. Ray McNulty, a respected national education leader, often states that we are living in a *VUCA* (Volatile, Uncertain, Complex, and Ambiguous) world. During these uncharted times, we must continue to focus on what is possible for our students, rather than what is likely to occur in this “now norm” environment of education. Our collective goal will always remain the same – unlocking the potential in ALL students. I look forward to continuing this adaptive journey with you.

Sincerely,

Michael T. Conner, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools