

## E-mail from Superintendent Bodie (8/11/20)

Dear APS Families,

Yesterday evening, Monday, August 10, the Arlington School Committee reviewed the Superintendent's [Fall 2020 Proposed Reopening Plan](#). The plan includes the recommendation of a Hybrid Learning Model for the district for the reopening of schools this fall.

The School Committee voted to approve the Hybrid Learning Model as the reopening plan, along with an option for families to choose a fully remote program facilitated by teachers in the Arlington Public Schools (APS), if families decide that an in-person return is not desirable. The chosen Hybrid Learning Model is AA/BB. This hybrid structure means that students attend school on two consecutive days, either Monday and Tuesday, or Thursday and Friday. Wednesday will be an early dismissal remote learning day. Our most vulnerable learners will be invited to attend school four days each week.

The district's priorities for the development of the preliminary plans and the final hybrid plan recommendation are health and safety, equity, social-emotional well-being, academic engagement and return to learning, educator professional development and collaboration, and two-way communication with all members of the APS community.

The School Committee attached conditions to its approval of the hybrid reopening plan. The conditions include the submission of a health and safety report to the School Committee no later than August 28th. The health and safety report will assess the status of the COVID-19 virus and local infection rates, along with school facilities' readiness to receive faculty and students. If the health and safety report is not supportive of reopening school facilities for a hybrid model, the APS could open with a remote model. If the health and safety report's conclusions are positive, the district will implement the Hybrid Learning Model when school reopens.

Arlington High School will open with a Remote Learning Model, as ventilation issues will delay the opening of the facility.

The [full text of the School Committee's approval](#) contains further details on the conditions and the reports that the School Committee will receive prior to school opening.

The School Committee also supported an application for a waiver from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to begin school on September 21. At the end of July, the Commissioner of Education reduced the number of required school days from 180 to 170 to provide time for educators and staff to prepare for the start of the school year. Without a waiver, the first day of school would be September 16, which

would only provide six days of preparation in Arlington since schools were scheduled to open on September 8. We hope for approval of the waiver by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Families will receive additional information on the Remote Choice Program by early next week and will be given the opportunity to make their enrollment decision (hybrid or fully remote). Families' choices will be binding. However, with a minimum of two weeks' notice, parents/guardians may request a return to the hybrid program, but any return will be subject to space availability.

For more information on the details of the Hybrid Learning Model, families may wish to review the [Fall 2020 Proposed Reopening Plan](#). Your student's individual school will also be providing additional information in the coming days and weeks.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Bodie, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools