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Dear Students and Parents:

I hope this communication finds you and your family well. As superintendent-elect, I would like to update you on the early discussions surrounding the start of the 2020-2021 school year.

When I reflect upon the past three months and look to the fall, we are challenged as students, parents, educators and human beings in ways most likely never imagined. For each one of our students, the term “resilience” has taken on an entirely new meaning.

For the past 28 years, I have been a part of District 211 and partnered with my colleagues in working toward providing tremendous opportunities for our high school students through creative and challenging classrooms, extensive activity and athletic experiences, and support systems to help all students succeed in high school in preparation for their choices after graduation. In the coming school year, we will continue to look for creative and flexible ways to provide these opportunities for our students, regardless of scheduling scenarios for the 2020-2021 school year.

The start of the 2020-2021 school year for students remains Thursday, August 13. With the knowledge that health guidelines and expectations for August 13 are not definitive right now, District 211 will plan for three scenarios that may be implemented at any time during the school year. These scenarios include traditional, in-person learning for all; remote learning for all; and a hybrid version of a limited number of students allowed into the school at one time. Though the details of possible scenarios are still being investigated, the following represents the core principles. When schools are open, the safety of our students and employees is paramount. Prior to allowing in-person instruction or extracurricular activities and athletics to begin, systems will be implemented following strict health procedures as directed by the Illinois Department of Health (I.D.P.H). Besides stringent cleaning and sanitizing methods, the I.D.P.H. may also require the utilization of personal protective equipment, physical spacing requirements, limitations on the total number of students allowed in school, and all other requirements as set forth by the Illinois State Board of Education (I.S.B.E.). It is important that the three scenarios allow for a relatively seamless shift from one scenario to another because of the unpredictable nature of current health concerns. For example, though a school may be engaging in a hybrid system of rotating a limited number of students into school on a certain day, the school must be ready to shift to all in-person or all remote learning as seamlessly as possible should the directive from the State change. Our high schools in District 211 are as large

as 2,650 students plus staff on any given day. Therefore, the three realistic, innovative scenarios must account for the challenges faced by large schools while maintaining high expectations for the health and safety of all, as well as meeting the educational needs of students. As the detailed directives from the I.D.P.H., I.S.B.E. and State of Illinois for schools to reopen in August have not been released, District 211 will be drafting all realistic scenarios that will allow students to safely engage in the curriculum, whether they are at home, in school with all of their classmates, or rotating days in school with a limited number of classmates. When the health directives for the August start become available, hopefully sometime in July, District 211 will evaluate the scenarios that meet and exceed these directives and then share the details of each scenario.

Should you have specific concerns, ideas or thoughts regarding the start of the school year, please feel free to share these using this email address, [20-21Opening@d211.org](mailto:20-21Opening@d211.org), by June 21.

I am honored to be able to collaborate with all of our school communities and look forward to our upcoming communications so that you get a chance to know me a little better. I plan to send another update to you during the first half of July.

Sincerely,

Lisa Small  
Superintendent-Elect

*You received this electronic communication because you provided your email address to High School District 211. Changes or updates to your email address can be made using [Infinite Campus](#). If you have questions regarding any of the information contained within this email, please call the high school for assistance with your concern.*

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