

# SCOTT COUNTY VIRGINIA SCHOOLS

## *“Every Child, Every Opportunity”*

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### DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT

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June 18, 2020

Dear Families,

This season has been among the most challenging and confounding many of us have ever experienced. During much of this time, I have struggled to summon the right words to describe how we can best move forward as a school system. I do believe, however, that it is important to provide comfort, support, and reassurance to our students and families. As I know that many of our families and community are experiencing grief or uncertainty, I believe that we are at a time where our focus on equity, a core value of the Scott County Public Schools Division Mission, must be pursued with renewed commitment and greater urgency. Together, we can and will ensure that EVERY STUDENT knows that they are loved and protected.

On June 9<sup>th</sup>, Governor Northam announced that schools will reopen for the 2020-2021 year in three phases. Scott County Public Schools, in accordance with guidance from the Virginia Department of Education, has begun to develop plans for reopening in August under Phase II and Phase III guidelines. The SPCS Executive Planning Team will be meeting consistently over the next two months to ensure plans are put in place to ensure student safety, with as much face-to-face instruction, is a top priority. While we are anxious to see students back in classrooms, it is important to note that guidance for both Phase II and Phase III does not include an avenue that allows for the immediate return of all students on a daily basis. We understand that this is not an ideal situation for many families, but we will work tirelessly to meet the needs of every student and family.

Please know that our final plan will be intentionally developed with every students' wellbeing in mind. Scott County Public Schools faculty and staff are eager for the day when all students can return to schools every day.

Thank you,

John I. Ferguson  
Superintendent  
Scott County Public Schools