



CHARLOTTE VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL

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Mr. James Harter Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Mitchell Rapp Principal

September 4, 2020

Dear Charlotte Valley Community and Families:

WELCOME BACK!! We have waited a long six months to say those words and we are so excited to be able to welcome back the students of Charlotte Valley on September 8th. It is important to us that we remind our community and families that no decisions were made in haste or without thoughtful consideration for the safety of our students, staff and community. There were hours of ZOOM meetings, emails, phone calls and research done as we finalized our reopening plan to bring all students of CVCS back into our building.

But first, it is important that we discuss how we all have a part in the safety of the reopening of CVCS and the responsibility that comes with it. It means that we all must wash hands, social distance and wear masks. There is enough scientific evidence to prove that if we can do those three things well, we will be successful. But it cannot stop there, and we need your help. If you or someone in your family is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 – stay home, get tested. If you believe that you may have come in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 – stay home, get tested. But, if you and your family have been safe and responsible, if you are willing to do your part at home and take temperatures and be prepared, then come on through those doors and once again walk the halls of CVCS!

Every member of this Board of Education has either had, or has, children in this school. It is important to us to have different levels of experiences and ages so we can help guide a PreK-12 building effectively. One thing we all agreed on was that our kids needed to be back in school. Structure, schedule, guidance, friends, compassion, trust and safety. That is our goal. It is not the rigor, the testing or the homework. To us, reopening means bringing our kids some familiarity in an unfamiliar world and smiles to faces of students who have not seen teachers, staff or their friends for SIX MONTHS.

We fully understand that there is going to be a large adjustment for our students, particularly in the younger grades. There will be adjustments with the protocols and classwork, and we recognize that we will all be moving at different speeds and levels of comfort. That is OK! Our goal is to put our students and staff in a position to succeed, however strange that may feel during this unprecedented time. At the end of the day, while we are all staring at the unknown, the only known we can strive for is success. Together, we feel we can accomplish success this school year. That level of success may very well be measured differently than in years past, and again, that is OK!

Together. We cannot stress that enough. It will take cooperation, understanding and patience. It will start in the mornings at home and it will end in the evenings at home. It will take efforts to make sure we are sending healthy students to school and it will take compassion from all of us to help hundreds of young children navigate a world that doesn't make sense to adults, let alone them. But again, we can be successful together.

We all hope we can return to normal, but this is as normal as we can get. We have worked diligently to provide the safest and most secure school for all of us and we are confident in that. We welcome your children back to the CVCS family and we are excited to bring about a different reality for them – one that is present with compassion, trust, friendship and laughter.

The great Jimmy Valvano told us that we should do three things every day: we should laugh, we should think, and we should have our emotions moved to tears, even in happiness or joy. If we do those three things, we will do this together and we will do it successfully.

On behalf of my Board of Education Peers and with warm regards,

Matt Moyse
CVCS Board of Education
President