August 4, 2020

Dear Beecher Parents, Guardians, Staff and Students,

We are excited to announce Beecher Community Schools has been working relentlessly as a united district to combat the instructional and physical challenges of COVID-19. We have raised tens of thousands of dollars and received numerous donations of computers in less than a week to ensure our priceless students have the technology needed for a successful start to the school year. I am extremely proud of the selfless contributions of our educators and board of education working together to find solutions and make the necessary changes for greater academic success. Our staff and school community has worked throughout the spring and summer in the form of professional think tanks, task forces, town hall discussion groups and fall reopening committees. Our staff has made personal calls to parents and community members to seek feedback regarding the possibility of successfully reopening in the fall for face-to-face instruction, a 100% virtual option and the possibility of a blended model to combat our current COVID-19 reality.

Our school year will officially begin on Monday, August 17, 2020 in the virtual format to ensure absolute safety for all students, parents, staff and community members. We are strongly exploring the possibility of returning to face-to-face instruction for students whose parents desire this potential option after Labor Day on Tuesday, September 8, 2020. Please understand that the tentative possibility of face-to-face instruction will rest on the current COVID-19 trends, established safety protocols, medical recommendations, scientific data, the collective desires of the majority of stakeholders in Beecher Community Schools and final mandates from our governor. Our ultimate and unwavering goal is safety and we will not experiment with the health and well-being of our students, staff, parents and greater school community.

We will take every precaution possible before making a concrete decision for September of 2020. We understand the vital necessity of traditional school structures and the life shaping experiences that our rich tradition has created for many students. Dailey Elementary and Beecher Middle/High School are often the safe place, the constantly dependable location for a hot meal, a warm learning environment and a collection of caring educators in a consistent location. We do not take our interactions and life shaping experiences for granted as a school district. Together, we will continue to explore innovative methods to meet the needs of our students and parents regardless of the potential challenges COVID-19 may bring this year. We will continue to update you on our progress as we work as a united team to ensure the safety of our entire school community. As always, I can be reached via email at mdavenport@beecherschools.org and/or through my office direct line (810) 591-9201.

Sincerely,

Dr. Marcus G. Davenport
Superintendent of Schools
Beecher Community School District

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File: Parent Letter-Virtual Learning-Reopening of Schools Update 08042020