Dear LB Families,

Here we are—Labor Day weekend! We are ready to see those amazing faces of our students next week! In my 35 years in education, I do not recall a more challenging opening of school than this one. I am so proud of our staff—they have literally worked day and night to ensure that we are ready. Over the past week, I hope that the many parent meetings that we have had have given you an opportunity to ask questions and feel comfortable about the reopening plan. Attached are just a few last (but important) FAQs and a really important document about health screening. Please be sure to print this document out, and do a quick health check on your children daily. We will be sending this document home regularly as a reminder.

Last week, Mr. DeVito posted a video about highlights of the health and safety aspects of the reopening plan. Here is a link to Dr. Romanelli’s video about the instructional components of the plan: https://youtu.be/8MiQNjeEF3k

A friend shared this reflection with me this week, and I wanted to share it with you. I am not sure of the original author.

*Back to school this year is ideal for NO ONE.*

*Not for teachers.*

*Not for parents.*

*Not for children*

*Hybrid is not ideal.*

*Virtual is not ideal.*

*Face-to-face in the midst of a pandemic is not ideal.*

*For every kid who is anxious to get back to the classroom there is another who has anxiety about returning.*

*For every parent who wonders, “How am I going to manage this?”* There is a teacher wondering, “How am I going to manage this?”

Often, a person wears both titles.

*For every kindergarten parent who is sad that this is how their child will begin their education, there is a parent of a senior who is bummed that this is how their child will end theirs.*

*For every person angry about their child having to wear a mask, there is a person who is petrified their immune compromised family member will get ill.*

*Life has thrown us a huge curve ball.*

*A plot twist if you will.*

*It will not be easy.*

*We will be challenged.*

*We will get frustrated.*

*I hope we rise to the occasion.*

*I hope we help one another.*

*We will all need help.*
I hope we treat each other with grace.
We will all need grace.
I hope we realize that at the end of the day, our kids need us to be the light.
Set the tone.
See the good.
Take a really unfortunate situation and do our best to make it okay.
For them.
For us.

I truly hope that we can all treat each other with grace this year, and that the tone we set for our children will teach them to treat each other in the same way. Our kids REALLY need us to be the light this year.

Warmly,

Dr. Jennifer Gallagher
Superintendent of Schools