Danbury Public Schools aspires to advance ALL learners to their highest potential.

I hope you are enjoying your summer and are looking forward to a new school year. Although last year was a challenging school year, thanks to our parents, students, teachers, and staff, we worked together and maintained our vision to continue to advance our learners to their highest potential. As I look towards this coming school year, I anticipate a new set of challenges; however, I am confident that by continuing to work together we can again be successful so our children continue to thrive.

With so many unknowns, the thought of returning to school can be unsettling to many. Know that over the last several months, my Cabinet, school administrators and the DPS Re-Entry Committee have been working hard to develop a plan with the safety of the students, staff and community in mind. Building on the American Pediatric Association's Guidelines and the CT Department of Education's Plan, *Adapt, Advance, Achieve*, the Committee was guided by the following principles:

1. Safeguarding the health and safety of students and staff;
2. Allowing *all* students the opportunity to return to school *full time* starting in the fall;
3. Monitoring the school, students, and staff and, when necessary, potentially institute distance learning in the future to appropriately contain COVID-19 spread;
4. Emphasizing equity, access, and support to the students and communities that are emerging from this historic disruption;
5. Fostering strong two-way communication with partners such as families, educators, and staff; and,
6. Factoring into decisions about reopening the challenges to the physical safety, social-emotional well-being, and the mental health needs of our students when they are not in school.

With this in mind, I am sharing the following document that outlines our plan to return to school in Fall 2020. In accordance with the CT Department of Education, DPS will be proposing 3 Models of Learning:

- **In-Person**
- **Modified In-Person**
- **Distance Learning**

The *Re-Entry Plan* includes protocol checklists for reopening in the following areas: Health and Wellness, Facilities and Operations, Instruction, Social/Emotional Growth, Transportation, Technology and Pandemic Response. These protocols will be shared with each school’s building principal who will be responsible for implementation and adherence.
Our schools may look a little different in the Fall and our procedures to ensure the health and safety of all in the building may feel strange, but we hope that returning to learning in the classroom will bring our students comfort.

We must continue to work together to ensure that ALL our students, whether in school, a hybrid learning environment or through distance learning are continuing to learn and develop to their highest potential. Be assured that our instruction will remain student-focused, flexible and take advantage of the strengths of our students, teachers, families and community. I look forward to a very productive school year.