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Dear Freedom Community,

By now I am sure that you have heard that the Freedom Area School District will be opening with a fully-virtual instructional model for the new school year. Our first day of instruction will be Thursday, August 27. The School Board made this decision on July 23rd based on the recommendation from the Phased School Reopening Committee. While we all want to get our students into schools as soon as possible, this decision was based on building a plan that accounted for the safety of all of our students and staff and also provided a plan that would remain consistent for you as we moved through these last few weeks of summer.

As we have seen in the last few days, many school districts across Western Pennsylvania have had to change their reopening plans at the last minute. It is likely that many more will have to do the same. We intentionally have not set a specific end date for virtual instruction. We will continue to monitor the impact of COVID-19 on our community and move as quickly as possible to get students back into their classrooms.

Over the summer months, the Board and administration have worked diligently to ensure that each student will have access to their own Chromebook computer, as well as all of the instructional materials that they need to be successful. Our teachers will be online and following their daily schedule each day, ensuring that students will receive individual and direct instruction throughout their day. Lessons will also be recorded so that students who are unable to log into their Google classroom will receive the same instruction as their peers. **If do not have internet access at home, we can help! Please contact your building principal as soon as possible.**

Over the coming few days your building principals will be in touch with you. They will provide specific schedules for picking up your student's laptop and instructional materials and a great deal of additional important information about the start of the school year.

These are new and strange times and none of us has walked this road before. We will make mistakes along the way. But we will all do our absolute best to help each other and to ensure the success of each student. During these times it is important that we don't get distracted by the things that we cannot do. Rather, let's focus on the things that we are able to do, like making this new year an exciting adventure for our students until we can get them back to school safely.

Thank you for your patience as we work through these final details. Be well.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey A. Fuller, Ed.D.
Superintendent