

Dear Liberty Panther Family,

I hope you and your family are safe and well. We continue to receive information, updates, and directives from state and local officials on a daily basis concerning the ongoing COVID environment. This is definitely a fluid situation and we feel like we are shooting at a moving target...But...we all know that Liberty Panthers are tough! We don't shy away from adversity....we buckle down and work hard together to meet the challenges that we are faced with.....and that is exactly what we are doing here.

Our outstanding central and campus administrative teams have been diligent in their daily efforts to address the constant changes and to make the best decisions for our students and community. In all of our deliberations, the number one priority is the health and well-being of LISD students and employees. And, as always, our LISD School Trustees are very concerned about your well-being; they want to do everything in their power to take care of your needs.

Last night, the LISD Board of Trustees approved our recommendation to modify the 2020-2021 instructional calendar. The new first day for all LISD students will be Tuesday, September 8. This later start date will accommodate the district's preparation for the use of the state's new digital instructional supports. Lee College students will receive separate communication regarding their dual-credit start date.

This change comes in light of the announcement last Thursday, July 16, by Texas Education Commissioner, Mike Morath, regarding the pending release of Texas Home Learning 3.0, which will be critical for us in ensuring continuity between instructional delivery choices (face-to-face and remote from home). This announcement was welcomed by us and many other districts across the state, in light of the instructional challenges that our teachers and students will face this fall during this ongoing COVID situation. We believe this robust digital solution will be invaluable to our teachers, staff, and students as it is designed to provide:

§ Unit Plans and daily lesson plans that are aligned to Texas standards

§ Built-in progress monitoring

§ Digital format with printing capability

§ Formative and summative unit assessments

§ Teacher, student, and family supports, and

§ Accessibility supports for all learners

The pending release date of Texas Home Learning 3.0 to districts is early August and our modified start date will allow us to ensure that our students, teachers, and parents are properly trained and familiar with the new learning platform. The parent trainings that were planned for next week will be rescheduled and communicated to you by your campus principal. Updated UIL and extracurricular guidance will be forthcoming.

We appreciate and value the perspective that many of you have offered us. You are a big part of what makes Liberty such a great place for students to attend and you are what makes Liberty such a great place to work. I am inspired by your enthusiasm to get our students back to school and back to the normalcy that they need and deserve. On behalf of our trustees and our administrative team, thank you so much for your continued support.

Please look for more detailed information from your principal, including sample daily schedules of both instructional delivery models to aid in helping you make decisions for your child. This will be a challenging fall, but together we can do this!

Thank you,
Cody Abshier, Ed.D.