THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FL

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April 9, 2021

Hello Students, Staff, Parents, and Guardians:

I hope this email finds you and your family doing well, as we approach the final weeks of the 2020-2021 school year. Together, we have conquered challenges and created opportunities since our campuses initially closed on March 13, 2020, and our educators shifted to distance learning.

Since September 2020, we have offered parents a choice of instructional modality; in-person or distance learning. That choice will continue through the end of the current school year. As a District, we remain committed to finishing out this school year strong, both academically and from the perspective of maintaining healthy and secure learning environments on our campuses.

I speak for the School Board, and the entire District when I say that I am optimistic about the future of our District and our students. As we look ahead to the 2021-2022 school year, I assure you that our District remains steadfast to our Mission, which is providing a world-class education with excellence and equity to empower each student to reach his or her highest potential with the most effective staff to foster the knowledge, skills, and ethics required for responsible citizenship and productive careers.

Based on the improving landscape of the pandemic, the rapidly increasing number of District employees who have been vaccinated, the State's strict stance that K-12 campuses must remain open, and irrefutable data supporting the tremendously enhanced student engagement of in-person instruction, a full return to brick and mortar this fall is anticipated and I believe it is in the best interest of our students and staff.

While we will continue to make adjustments as guidance on COVID-19 mitigation strategies change, we plan to return to traditional, in-person instruction when classes begin on August 10, 2021.

A full return to campus-based learning will put an end to simultaneous instruction, which we all know has been a very heavy lift for our teachers, and has left many distance learning students struggling academically.

As a District, we are dedicated to providing robust learning opportunities over the summer, through a series of remediation plans for those struggling students. Parents of students who have experienced academic loss will be notified by their child's school about summer learning opportunities.

I know you have many questions regarding details of instruction and campus-based health and safety protocols in the new school year. The District will continually strive to be aligned with the most current guidelines from the Florida Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). More information regarding campus procedures is forthcoming.

I cannot overstate the academic, social, and emotional benefits of returning to in-person instruction. Students thrive while learning among friends and caring adults in their school setting. While in-person instruction is the best fit for most families, students also have a remote instructional option through Palm Beach Virtual School.

Unlike our currently offered distance learning option in which the same District educators from our brick and mortar campuses are teaching in-person and virtual students, Palm Beach Virtual is a separate program with its own staff of online instructors. Parents of District students will receive an email from Palm Beach Virtual that will include information about enrollment there for the fall.

In closing, I would like to say how proud I am to have the honor of serving as the Superintendent of this exceptional District. Because of you, education never paused. Because of you, education was never interrupted in Palm Beach County.

Our School District continues to serve as an example on the national stage, for our intentional and innovative achievements borne out of our unwavering commitment to the success of our students.

The back-to-school theme for this school year was 'Going the Distance, Together.' Whether you are a student, parent, member of Team Palm Beach, a business partner, or a member of this great community, thank you for being a partner committed to educational excellence.

Respectfully,



Donald E. Fennoy II, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools