August 11, 2020

Dear Families:

On August 10, 2020, the PA Departments of Education and Health released new guidelines outlining the circumstances under which schools should move to a partly online or fully online model of instruction. As of today, these guidelines, which can be found on PDE’s website, show that Butler and Armstrong Counties are designated as “moderate risk” counties, while Clarion County is designated as a “low risk” county. Under these guidelines, the state’s recommendation for schools in counties designated as “moderate risk” is to implement partial or full-scale online instruction.

As it currently stands, the Karns City Area School District is prepared to open its doors for face-to-face instruction 5 days per week, while also offering an online learning platform for students whose families are uncomfortable sending them to school. However, as a result of the state’s new guidelines, it may become necessary for the District to consider offering a partial online model of instruction or a full-scale online model of instruction. A partial online program would consist of students coming to school in cohorts for 2 days per week, while spending the rest of their instructional time online. For example, group one might report Mondays and Wednesdays, while group two might report Tuesdays and Thursdays. All students would be expected to work virtually on the days they are not in the building. On Fridays, students would have opportunities to check in with their teachers virtually. Details regarding a partial plan will be forthcoming, should we adopt a partial online instructional model. In addition to this partial model, those who have already enrolled their children in the District’s Virtual Instruction Program (VIP), can still utilize this option. A full-scale model of online instruction, on the other hand, would require all students to learn virtually, at home, 5 days per week.

Obviously, having just received this information yesterday, we have several questions and concerns we need to have addressed by PDE before we make a decision to change our current model of 5 days of in-person instruction with the VIP option. Nonetheless, we feel it is necessary to share this information with you now, in the event we have to change our model of instruction within a short period of time.

In closing, we realize that the majority of you have already planned to either send your children to school 5 days per week or enroll them in VIP, and any change to the instructional model may impact your daycare or work schedules. Likewise, we understand your frustration with this situation, but we will do our best to keep you informed of any changes as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

The KC Administrative Team