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"A belief in what is possible."

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LETTER TO THE TEAM #4
31 JULY 2020

Safe, Smart, Start

We received word this week that Governor Scott has issued an Executive Order to delay the start of school until September 8, 2020. He also announced that he would work with the legislature for additional flexibility with school calendars. I believe that it is good news to know that we now have a definite start date for students, parents, faculty and staff to look forward to.

Please know that our leadership team continues to plan for the 2020 school year with excitement to have our students back in the building. This Summer/Fall I am holding "Take 20" meetings with all employees to learn about their families, hear ideas on things they are proud of, as well as areas of improvement. In speaking with principals, teachers, and support staff in the Franklin West Community, it is clear that our employees possess tremendous pride for our students, families, schools, and community.

When I arrived here in mid June to serve as Superintendent, I quickly realized that the job I had applied for prior to the pandemic is much different than all of us are experiencing now. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve and am looking forward to the positive daily experiences. Please know that as we move toward the first day of school, things will look different; however the goal is to open school with a safe, smart start. The intention is to maintain a start that allows us to work toward the possibility of eventually bringing students back for a more consistent schedule, compared to the hybrid model that we are busy planning to start the year with. We will need everyone to pull together to follow health and safety guidelines in order to have the best start possible.

In closing, I am enjoying the opportunity to meet families, employees, and work with supportive school board members. Please know that each night before the first day of school, I can hardly sleep and this year will be no different. I look forward with great excitement to welcoming all students of Fletcher, Georgia, and BFA Fairfax Schools. Getting to know each and every one of their talents and gifts will be something amazing to look forward to!

Enthusiastically Yours,

Jim Tager