

# Shaler Area School District

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August 13, 2020

Dear Shaler Area families,

Thank you to all of you who took time out of your day to join us on the parent Town Hall meetings this Monday. We appreciated having the opportunity to talk about the district's plans for the school year. Recordings of each Town Hall are available for those who were unable to attend these meetings live or would like to go back and review the information.

Primary Schools Parent Town Hall — [https://youtu.be/zd0hpXKq5\\_I](https://youtu.be/zd0hpXKq5_I)  
Elementary School Parent Town Hall — <https://youtu.be/3MvAKV9H6Bo>  
Middle School Parent Town Hall — <https://youtu.be/BSkqYGfI7SQ>  
High School Parent Town Hall — <https://youtu.be/zdDNIR2WN3A>

In the coming weeks, each building principal will host a building-specific Town Hall meeting for families with additional information related to the building's operations and orientation activities. We will provide additional information on these meetings when it is available.

## **Reopening & Commitment Form**

As a reminder, the deadline for completing the 2020-21 Reopening & Commitment Form is **today, August 13, at 4 p.m.** The commitment form can be accessed by visiting: <https://forms.gle/dsZTshEqKUfydirx9>.

Please note that all families are to fill out **one commitment form per student.**

Even though all students will start the school year in the 100% virtual model, we still are planning for the transition to the hybrid model, and we need to know which students intend to remain in the 100% virtual option for planning purposes. The Shaler Area Titan Cyber Academy is the 100% virtual learning option when the district transitions to the hybrid and traditional models. Please know that if you change your mind when the district transitions to the hybrid model, we will be flexible and work with you to provide the appropriate instructional model for your student and family.

Additionally, the Reopening & Commitment Form asks for families to commit to providing transportation to/from school, if possible, to help with social distancing requirements once we transition to the hybrid model. Families who fully commit to providing transportation to/from school will not have their student rostered to a school bus for the 2020-21 school year. If you are not able to commit to providing transportation to AND from school, your child will receive transportation services from the school district and be assigned to a bus.

## **Transitioning to Hybrid**

We have received several questions from families about when the district will make the decision to transition to the hybrid model. We know that this is important for planning and childcare purposes, and we will make the decision as soon as we are able. We intend to provide you with weekly communication to provide updates on the district's plans.

To start the school year, we are planning to remain in the 100% virtual model at least through Friday, October 9. On August 10, the state Departments of Health and Education provided recommendations to Pre-K-12 schools related to the instructional models used during the 2020-2021 school year. We will use [this metric](#), in addition to the current trends of cases in Allegheny County, and any updated guidance from the federal, state, and local health organizations to guide our decision to determine that it is appropriate to transition to the hybrid model.

We recognize 2020-2021 is an unconventional school year that comes with many questions and unknowns. We thank you for your patience and understanding as we work through all of the details of this school year. To help answer some of your questions, we have updated our FAQ page on our Back-to-School website with additional information based on your questions and feedback: <https://www.sasd.k12.pa.us/BacktoSchool2020.aspx>. If you have specific questions related to your student, please do not hesitate to reach out to your building principal.

Thank you again for being our partners in education and for your support as we prepare for the start of this school year.

Sincerely,

Sean C. Aiken  
Superintendent of Schools

Bryan E. O'Black, Ed.D.  
Assistant Superintendent