In this moment...
A Two Rivers Reopening Story
Two Rivers Mission

To nurture a diverse group of students to become lifelong, active participants in their own education, to develop a sense of self and community, and to become responsible and compassionate members of society.

Two Rivers Goal

When students graduate from Two Rivers, they will have the cognitive and social skills to succeed in high school and college, so that they are positioned to have rich and varied options for their future.
Core Values

BE THOUGHTFUL.

EXPERIENCE AND GROW.

GIVE ACCESS.

NURTURE RELATIONSHIPS.

LEARN BETTER TOGETHER.
Agenda

In this meeting we will....

1. **Share our process and our why** - how TR arrived at the difficult decision to start the year remote

2. **Ensure all families, new and returning, have a common set of information** about Two Rivers’ plans and commitments for next year

3. **Provide an update on work underway and next steps** for family engagement
But first...let me introduce myself!
Our Organizational Leadership Team

Kristina Kyles-Smith
Executive Director

Gail Williams
Director of Operations

Jeff Heyck-Williams
Director of Curriculum & Instruction

Kenneth McCants-Pearsall
Chief Academic Officer

Khizer Husain
Director of External Relations

Aurora Steinle
Chief of Staff

Our School Leaders

Caroline Mwendwa-Baker
Elementary School Principal (4th St.)

Chelsie Jones
Elementary School Principal (Young)

Muronji Inman-McCraw
Middle School Principal
We Miss You!
And We Cannot Wait to be Back in Person!
Our Why
Why we are starting remote....

After exploring multiple options, we determined that starting the year with a powerful virtual option for all of our students is the safest starting point for our entire school community.

Starting the school year remotely also ensures continuity of learning for students regardless of shifts in our local health context and allows us to focus on enhancing our remote instructional model in service of desired student engagement and outcomes.
## Comparing Models

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fully Virtual (V) (also known as “remote” learning)</th>
<th>Two Cohort Approach: In-person (I) &amp; Virtual (V)</th>
<th>Four Cohort Approach: Two Hybrid (AB) One In-Person (I) One Virtual (V)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All students are in a single cohort that is Virtual/Remote (V).</td>
<td>Students are divided into two cohorts. Cohort I is 100% in-person and Cohort V is 100% virtual/remote.</td>
<td>Some students are in cohorts that have a mix of in-person instruction for two days and remote instruction for two days each week; other students are divided into I or V and receive 100% remote or virtual. Note: Another version is to have four mixed cohorts that each receive one day of in-person (“CDEF”).</td>
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*Due to health guidance requiring small classes and social distancing, NO model can accommodate all students learning in-person more than two days each week.*
Our inputs included....

- **Health data and guidance** from the Mayor, OSSE, DC Health, CDC, APA, and others
- **Family insights** from network-wide surveys (April and June) and school-led listing sessions
- **Staff insights** from surveys, questions and feedback from All Staff meetings, and conversations with leaders and supervisors
- **Pressure testing and iterating** led by our school leaders with the support of ours operations team, ILT, and OLT.
- **Experience with remote learning** in Spring 2020
Our Decision Making Process

- This dynamic and ongoing process, which we will revisit as our inputs, constraints, and public health context shift, will land Two Rivers’ decision about reopening.
Testing out what in-person will look like...
Health & Safety Guidance and Data

● TR is closely tracking and following guidance from OSSE, DC Health, CDC, APA, and others

● National and local requirements are extensive, but Two Rivers is on track to meet all health and safety requirements
  ○ Including room arrangements, ventilation, entry procedures, protective equipment, such as masks and other barriers, cleaning protocols and supplies, etc.

● However, local data is fluctuating - D.C. initially sustained progress after loosening restrictions during Phase 2, but recent data shows an increase in the number of COVID-19 cases
  ○ VA and MD have seen even larger increases in recent weeks
  ○ Mayor Bowser has delayed the DCPS decision until 7/31

● National data is worsening in many states
**Family Insights**

- Most TR families were **satisfied** with remote learning
- About half families were **undecided or not ready to send students back in-person** (this was higher for MS families)
Family Insights (cont’d)

- Health and safety remain families’ top priorities

- Families wanted scheduling consistency that allowed them to plan their work week while supporting safety & cleaning.
Family Insights (cont’d)

- Families cited **increasing social engagement** is a top area of growth for SY20-21
While some of our staff members are both able and comfortable returning to work on-site, **more than half of TR staff surveyed were somewhat or very uncomfortable with returning on-site and many cited barriers that included health conditions, child care coverage, and/or safe transit.**
TR Deeper Remote Learning Principles

Grounded in our mission and goal and informed by feedback from families and staff, TR’s organizational and instructional leadership teams identified five design principles for Two Rivers’ approach to reentry:

- Health and Safety
- Equity & Access
- Empowering Families
- Connection, Joy, and Hope
- Continuity of Learning
Reentry Design Principles

Health and Safety: During this next phase, our decisions will be rooted in the health and safety of our students and staff. We can’t live out our mission if those in our charge are not safe and healthy - physically and emotionally. While our operations team will take the lead on ensuring physical health and safety, we must work to provide emotional safety for our students through predictable and consistent experiences as well as joyful and nurturing environments, both remote and in-person.
Reentry Design Principles

**Equity and Access:** We must ensure that our program is accessible to all students, particularly our Black students, EL students, and students with special needs. While this is always true, it is even more important to call out during this time where inequities are exacerbated.
Reentry Design Principles

Empowering Families: Now more than ever, parents/guardians are being asked to do more with regard to educating their children. As we reimagine school for the fall, we must empower families by: seeking input throughout the design and implementation process, providing tools and resources for families to support successful remote learning, and communicating frequently about updates.
Reentry Design Principles

Connection, Joy, and Hope: Regardless of what mode of instruction students participate in, our program must ensure that students are able to have meaningful opportunities for connection with staff and each other and that their learning is not only rigorous, but joyful. By designing instruction with connection and joy in mind, we will create a learning environment that engenders hope among our students and families for our path forward.
Reentry Design Principles

**Continuity of Learning:** Because our families will have the opportunity to move between learning modes at points throughout the year, our in-person and remote learning programs should be as aligned as possible.
## Models by Design Principles

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Back to why we are starting remote....

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Starting the school year remotely also ensures continuity of learning for students regardless of shifts in our local health context and allows us to focus on enhancing our remote instructional model in service of desired student engagement and outcomes.
And we’re certainly not alone....

Coronavirus Latest: Baltimore City Schools Will Start Fall 2020 Online

Fairfax, Loudoun superintendents earlier learning plans, call for all-virtual start to school year

Opinion

I Won’t Return to the Classroom, and You Shouldn’t Ask Me To

Los Angeles and San Diego Schools to Go Online-Only in the Fall
What Remains True
Two Rivers fall 2020 virtual learning program model requires that every student (PS-8) has dedicated access to a laptop or desktop in grades K-8, tablet in grades PreSchool and PreKindergarten, and Internet connectivity for all.

We are prepared to support families through technology distribution days in August to ensure each and every student has the appropriate level device to learn. To date, we distributed approximately 215 laptops and 15 hotspots.

Our devices are monitored remotely through Go Guardian to ensure students are being digital citizens. Families also have access to our monitoring tool.
TR is Giving Access to ALL with Meals

- Students eligible for Free and Reduced Price (FRP) meals through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) will have weekly access to a 5-day meal box of breakfast and lunch.
- Meals will be at NO-COST to families.
- All families will have the opportunity to complete a NSLP application online starting in August.
In addition to technology, we know that students will need access to basic school supplies including: pencils, paper, crayons, and notebooks.

We are prepared to support families that do not have access to these school supplies by providing these materials through distribution days in August.

In addition, we know that learning is enhanced with specialized materials like workbooks and manipulatives for mathematics. We are exploring the distributing these materials as well in August.

We are currently working on our plan for amending IEPs to reflect remote learning in the fall, as well as continuing to ensure that all students w/IEPs receive their services.
What’s Under Development
Planning Remote Learning 3.0

- Iterating on our Remote Learning 2.0 plan from April-June, we are working on Remote Learning 3.0 at Two Rivers.
- Deriving from Design Principles, the new model will include:
  - New content
  - Greater student agency
  - More connection
- Setting daily schedule and instructional plans for staff and students
- Designing how we will assess performance
- Developing guidelines for practices when we return in-person
- Planning for robust social and emotional supports
Planning Remote Learning 3.0 (cont’d)

● Thinking about new ways to build crew
● Getting creative with outdoor spaces
● Identifying needed in-person opportunities. For example:
  ○ Virtual instructional delivery in classrooms for teachers
  ○ Learning hubs for students to learn virtually with supervision
  ○ Small groups or 1:1 connection meetups
  ○ Select service offerings for support services that cannot be offered remotely
Next Steps
Family Engagement & Communications

- **Bi-weekly email updates** on our preparedness for both remote and in-person learning from **network leadership**
- **Bi-weekly live updates** and engagement from **school leadership**
- Opportunities for information and engagement on Instagram: @tworiverspcs (Network), @tryleaders (Young), @trmsjoy (Middle School), @4TRjoy (4th St.)
Families can help by....

● **Getting your child the required vaccinations**
  ○ It is DC Law (“No Shots, No School”) that students receive appropriate vaccinations to attend school in-person - please ensure your child is ready!

● **Engaging with your PSA** - we will need to creatively and collectively meets needs identified by families in new ways this year

● **Staying connected with your school community!**
Families can continue to submit new questions or ideas here:

bit.ly/TRFamilyQs

And reach our to our leadership team or your school leader anytime!

We are crew!
THANK YOU!