

Debra Thompson

From: Gregg Kowalski <gkowalski@pcsd.us>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 3:47 PM
To: Assembly
Subject: Return to School

July 29, 2020

Dear Esteemed Council Members,

Having just read the latest headline from an article published in Time magazine, dated July 29th, "The Coronavirus Seems to Spare Most Kids From Illness, but its Effect on Their Mental Health is Deepening," and our looming question on a safe school return this fall, I feel very strongly about a full return by all students for their social, emotional and academic standing and growth. As an Elementary educator for twenty three years I have seen first hand the detrimental effects of isolated online learning for the elementary school kids last Spring. The quality, quantity and consistency of work turned in was far less than at any point during the previous months of school.

In a cooperative classroom, however, children gain support, feedback and social stimulus from their fellow table mates, group mates and classmates throughout the academic day as well as immediate instruction, feedback, and direction toward educational goals by their teacher. They learn teamwork in the process and gain valuable friendships as a byproduct. We must not lose sight of the negative effects this educational isolation is having on our elementary school children. A full return to school is in all of our collective best interests.

Thank you,

Gregg Kowalski