



1870 Pio Nono Ave, Macon, GA 31204  
**Phone:** (478)250-1376 **Email:** [www.cirrusacademy.org](http://www.cirrusacademy.org)  
Dr. Gail Fowler, **Superintendent/CEO**  
**“Flight to Excellence”**

October 12, 2020

Dear Parents,

Cirrus Academy Charter School Superintendent Dr. Gail Fowler, CEG Board of Governance and Leadership team presented the District’s updated re-opening plan during the July 2020 Board of Education meeting. Decisions have been carefully considered given the magnitude of COVID-19 and school closures since March 16, 2020.

The District previously started the 2020-21 school year and opened schools with a virtual learning model to account for substantial community spread of COVID-19. The current re-opening plan calls for a learning model to match the associated disease spread in the community.

Based on the data as of Sept. 14, 2020, the risk level for spread remains substantial in Bibb County. Currently, there are greater than 100 cases per 100,000 residents for a 14-day period. The District’s phase plan is conservative and gradual because the safety and well-being of students and staff remain the priority. Cirrus Academy will move to continue with the virtual learning platform for the duration of the first semester.

Currently Dr. Fowler and her leadership team is currently planning a “phased-in” approach re-opening in the Spring 2021 semester in which three options are being considered. They include remaining virtual, face to face learning for K- to 2nd graders and special education students beginning January 6, 2021 and gradually phase in grades 3-8.

A phased in approach to allow athletic and extra-curricular activities to return. Participation is voluntary. There is no mandate for students, coaches, or sponsors to participate. Schools will continue to mitigate exposure by maintaining social distancing during practices and while not on the field/court of play. Masks/face coverings are required.

The safety and well-being of our scholars is a top priority for the District. All plans are contingent on less than 100 cases per 100,000. The data is in anticipation of the risk of being in the safe zone. Parents will have the option of continuing virtual learning, and the district will continue to communicate with families as we move forward in the phases.

Measures such as physical distancing, hand washing, screening for symptoms, and the appropriate use of face coverings can help reduce the risk of disease transmission and are most effective when used consistently and in combination. Until there is a vaccine, these preventive actions are important even when transmission rates in a community are low. Employing these strategies, particularly when high compliance with recommendations is achieved, can help protect students and staff and may help avoid frequent, and potentially more disruptive, school dismissals and closures. As trusted partners in communities, schools are a vital partner in communicating the importance of these prevention strategies to students, families, faculty and staff.

Local public health conditions, community concerns, and practical facility constraints must be considered in these school reopening decisions, and we believe our local leaders are best positioned to do that thoughtfully. Our agencies stand ready to assist, provide resources and answer questions as you and your teams work through these decisions under evolving public health circumstances.

We are immensely grateful for each of you, and the tremendous dedication you and your families have demonstrated in the face of great challenges. Thank you for your commitment to creating safe, healthy learning environments for your scholars under these extraordinary circumstances.

Best Regards,

Dr. Gail M. Fowler  
Superintendent/CEO  
Cirrus Academy Charter School