Parents and Staff,

Monday evening the Garden City Schools Board of Education voted to start the 2020-2021 School Year online. While considering Return to School options, the decision for the online start came down to one major factor: the safety of our students, teachers and staff. Given the current status of the COVID-19 pandemic, there are too many unknowns and as a school community we have to remain focused on the health and well-being of our stakeholders, while also seeking to make student learning and growth a continued priority. Please know that we recognize and value the importance of in-person learning, and we are eager to have students back in our school buildings. Moving into the fall, we will continue to assess the daily information on COVID-19 across the state and within our region. Furthermore, we will continue to monitor the response to COVID-19 in districts across the country to ensure our in-person instructional plan is rooted in the safety and well-being of students, teachers and staff.

The District is implementing additional measures to ensure that online learning this fall is robust and impactful. Teachers and staff will have professional development opportunities specific to best practices in online learning, student engagement and the use of Learning Management Systems. Moreover, there will be additional support in place, including a parent tutorial on Google Classroom. Additionally, we are pleased to share that the District is adopting the Schoology-Learning Management System to support the management of student work in grades Prek-6.

During the online start this fall, the District will continue to plan for a return to in-person instruction, and for future planning purposes we will need to know whether your instructional preference is for in-person (when we are able to return) or continued online instruction. To facilitate this process the district has established a call center, and staff are ready to receive your call between the hours of 8:30 am and 4pm, August 12 and 13 at 734-762-6300. The call center hours may be extended based on need.

We know this has been a trying time for our stakeholders, and we appreciate the continued support and understanding as we embark on the safest plan for our school community. We are also grateful for the tireless work of our teachers, staff, administration, students and parents, who have maintained a commitment to learning and wellness during this challenging time.

Respectfully,

Derek Fisher

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