



Albert Einstein Academy of Ohio

Tuition Free, Public Community Schools K-12
Lakewood, North Olmsted, and Strongsville
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www.aeao.org

*Bruce W. Thomas, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools*

August 1, 2020

Dear AEA Families,

During the summer months, our central office and building administrators have been meeting multiple times per week to plan for the coming school year. Each building has planned out the endless number of scenarios that we may face during the coming school year. We have also met regularly with multiple school administrative groups from the area.

The Cuyahoga County Health officials shared with us this week that there is an expectation for a spike in COVID-19 cases during September. Additionally, there is opinion from health officials that as we move into October and the onset of flu season, we will experience an increasing chance for serious illness. The Cuyahoga County Board of Health issued a recommendation that all schools within its health jurisdiction begin the 2020-21 school year remotely “due to the elevated health risk posed to students, staff and family members” and that schools “discontinue extracurriculars during the remote learning period.” Read the full [CCBH press release here](#).

I am very aware of the importance of in-person learning, student-teacher contact, the importance of social interaction with peers in school, and during extra-curricular activities. It concerns me deeply that our students are missing out on these interactions and experiences.

I plan to recommend to our Board of Education for their consideration that AEA provide remote learning by AEA teachers for all our students for at least the first nine weeks of the school year. This is consistent with the County Health Department recommendations. The AEA Virtual Academy will be available for the entire school year for those students/families who wish to stay remote if in-person learning becomes an option.

This is an exceedingly difficult decision and I know there will be many who may agree and many who may disagree. No part of this is ideal. Please understand the recommendation is being made with the health and safety of our students and staff as the top priority.

Additional information will be coming next week. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Bruce W. Thomas, Ed.D.

Pronouns: He/Him/His

Superintendent of Schools

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