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September 4, 2020

Dear Clairton Parents and Families,

Today concludes our first full week of school for the 2020-2021 school year. I must say it has turned out much better than we anticipated considering that we are offering four learning platforms and are required to follow strict health and safety protocols. Our teachers and students are happy to be back and I am very proud of the work they are doing juggling in-person and remote learning. We are definitely treading new territory and it isn't without its growing pains.

Our new learning management system (LMS) Canvas is experiencing technical issues resulting in an implementation delay. This company has a superior product and is one of the fastest growing learning platforms used nationally from Kindergarten through college. In the long term this LMS will greatly benefit our students, teachers and parents by making learning more user friendly and efficient. Please know that we are diligently working with Canvas and hope to be up and running very soon. I appreciate your patience and support and assure that students are still engaged in learning. Teachers are sending out curriculum and instruction through email and hosting live google meets or zoom lessons at various times throughout the day to all remote students. Students are able to interact with their teachers. Please continue to check student emails for teacher's announcements and instructional content.

Typically, the first weeks of school are spent on community building activities designed to help teachers, students, and classmates get to know one another. School and classroom rules and expectations are taught as well as cyber safety. New this year are health and safety protocols which include social distancing, mask wearing, cleaning, symptom screening and hand hygiene. Students are also being taught how to use google meets, and receive and send assignments. All of our students have access to many technology programs they use in class to reinforce new concepts such as Moby Max, iLit, AR, Reflex Math, IXL and Khan Academy.

I thank you for your continued support and remind you to contact our helpdesk@ccsdbears.org or call 412-945-3700 if you have any questions or concerns pertaining to technology.

Have a restful and relaxing Labor Day weekend.

Ginny L. Hunt, Ed. D.
Superintendent