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Greetings, Kindergarten Families,

Let me first extend a warm welcome to each and every one of you. WissNation is so excited that you are soon to become a part of our school district family. For our new kindergarteners, coming to the “big school” is always such an exciting event, and we could not agree more.

As the district’s administration is busy preparing for opening day, we all recognize that everything about the reopening of schools is somewhat different this year. On July 23rd, you will receive a survey from the district, a survey that requires you to choose the best program option for your child. There are two choices:

- Elementary Option A (In-Person Return to School)
Or
- Elementary Option B (Fully Virtual)

We thought it would be helpful for you to view both schedules, side-by-side, so that you could see that the planned program is just about the same. Of course, the big difference is in the format – one in-person and the other through the use of video-conferencing. While we are still in the process of fine tuning the schedules and will make some adjustments, this gives you a fairly good picture of how a kindergarten student’s day looks.

Elementary Option A In-Person Return to School		Elementary Option B Fully Virtual	
8:30-8:45	Morning Meeting	8:30-8:45	Morning Meeting
8:45-10:15	English-Language Arts	8:45-10:15	English-Language Arts
10:15-10:30	Mid-Morning Break	10:15-10:30	Mid-Morning Break
10:30-11:00	Time for Practice, Intervention, and Enrichment	10:30-11:00	Time for Practice, Intervention, and Enrichment
11:00-11:30	Lunch	11:00-11:30	Lunch
11:30-12:45	Mathematics	11:30-12:45	Mathematics
12:45-1:30	Encore (Art, Guidance, Library, Music, P.E.)	12:45-1:30	Encore (Art, Guidance, Library, Music, P.E.)
1:30-2:10	English-Language Arts	1:30-2:10	English-Language Arts
2:10-2:25	Afternoon Break	2:10-2:25	Afternoon Break
2:25-3:15	Science/Social Studies	2:25-3:15	Science/Social Studies
3:15	Dismissal	3:15	Dismissal

How are these the same?

- Students will have a Wissahickon teacher.
- Students will spend the same amount of time in the various curricular areas.
- Students will have breaks in the morning and afternoon, some outdoors and others in the classroom.
- Students will have a lunch break.



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- Within each content area (English-Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies), the students will have some direct instruction by the teacher; they will also have times where they engage in independent work and small group work.
- All Kindergarten classes will be very similar with regard to instructional pacing – both in terms of the sequence of topics as well as the time of year in which they are taught.
- All students will have a full range of Encore classes.
- In both options, teachers will assess student learning, conduct fall parent-teacher conferences, and issue progress reports each trimester.

How are they different?

- Students in the “Fully Virtual” option will engage with their teacher and classmates through Microsoft Teams’ video-conferencing feature.
- Students in the “Fully Virtual” option will have a full range of Encore classes, but at this time we are not sure if these classes will be taught synchronously (live with teacher in real time via video-conferencing) or asynchronously (pre-recorded).
- Students in the “Fully Virtual” option will be using a district-issued Dell Chromebook to engage with classmates and the teacher.

I hope that this overview of both Option A and Option B will assist you in making a decision as to which program is best for your child. Our team looks forward to meeting your child and you in the upcoming Kindergarten Interviews scheduled to start in August. In the meantime, please reach out to your school principal should have additional questions. Welcome again!

Regards,

Gary W. Abbamont
Assistant Superintendent