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SUPERINTENDENT
Dr. Jesse L. Jackson

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The mission of Lake Wales Charter Schools, Inc. is to bring the best of public education to our community by providing innovation and choice within a continuous pre-school through postsecondary curriculum so that each child recognizes the benefits of life-long learning, constructive citizenship and personal happiness.

The Lake Wales Charter Schools, Inc. is an equal opportunity institution for education and employment.

August 5, 2020

Dear Lake Wales Charter Schools Parents,

First, let me thank you for your patience, support and understanding as we as a community and state continue our efforts to respond to the COVID- 19 crisis. Our Board of Trustees, school and system leaders as well as community health experts have worked together diligently to gain the best knowledge and insight possible to guide our efforts to reopen our charter schools in Lake Wales. Making the health, safety and well-being of students, teachers and staff a first priority is a guiding principle that we continue to use in our planning. Please know that we have spent many hours during the past few weeks vetting the varied concerns, interests and desires of students, parents and staff in the process.

On Tuesday August 4, 2020 the Lake Wales Charter School Board of Trustees held an emergency meeting to discuss making modifications to the school reopening plan. The recommended changes that were presented to the Trustees resulted from weeks of planning, preparation, parent and staff surveys, discussions with local health professionals, trustees and members of the Lake Wales Charter School leadership team. After more than two hours of presentations, discussion, questions and public comments the trustees approved the following changes to the reopening plan:

1. Teachers will return to work August 14th.
2. On August 24th Lake Wales Charter Schools will enter into **phase I** of the reopening plan. In phase 1, all K-12 grade students will begin online classes (August 24th). All staff including teachers will work on campus (beginning August 14th).
3. On September 14th, Lake Wales Charter Schools will announce **phase II** plans. Provided local conditions (based on medical data) improve, and Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) and supplies are available for all schools, so that return to in-person classes can be done safely, families who have chosen to have in-person classes for their student(s) will begin in-person classes on September 22nd with social distancing and masks required for all students and staff.
4. Pre-K and Little Highlander Academy (LHA) will begin in person on August 24th. There will be no online component for the Pre-K and LHA.
5. All parents will have the opportunity to update their original choice for their student (face to face or distance) prior to the start of face to face school.

We remain hopeful that progress will be made soon in combating this unfortunate virus. In the meantime, we want to encourage all of our families, employees, and community partners to exercise safety measures that helps eliminate the spread of the virus. Marcia Rose, RN, our system nurse for Lake Wales Charter Schools and serves as our health expert, will provide on the LWCS website a weekly update describing our local COVID-19 conditions. I encourage you to visit our website regularly to view her updates.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jesse L. Jackson", written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Jesse L. Jackson, Superintendent