



720 Payne Ave
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February 8, 2021

Dear HOPE Parents,

I just received the news that the City of St. Paul has granted HOPE the permit to start the construction project! On Monday, February 15, 2021, the demolition of the gym will occur. In addition, we will do some renovations in the existing building. The renovation is scheduled to start in March and go through the end of May 2021. It is our goal to get renovation of the existing building completed before summer school starts in mid-June. During the months of March through May, guests and staff will not have access to door 7 on Payne Avenue. Instead, door 1 (by the shed) on Minnehaha Avenue will be the temporarily main door. There is a buzzer at the door which will allow you to enter the building.

With this timeline, including the demolition of the existing gym and constructing a new addition during this period, and after consulting with the Administration Team, I want to inform you that **I will extend the Distance Learning model for the remainder of this school year.** There are a few key factors that we took into serious consideration when we reviewed the options.

*COVID-19 virus is still a high concern for parents and staff. Even as the state rolls out the vaccination, we do not know when all staff members will get the vaccine.

*Maintain consistency for all children, parents and staff. At this time, even with the vaccination roll out, it is still unclear how this will turn out. It is important that HOPE maintains a consistent schedule and learning program for all children. We have seen other districts open school, only to close them again due to the virus outbreak. Thus causing more inconsistencies and stress to all.

*With distance learning, we would not have to shift students and staff to other rooms/parts of the building during the construction and renovation. This would alleviate added stress to an already high stress level that you and all students are learning and working under.

*Renovation of certain parts of existing building would be completed by June 2021, in time for summer school.

*Construction is scheduled to be done by August 2021 in time to open the new school year - SY2021-22. Only second and third floors would be completed by December 2021.



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We will continue to communicate weekly with you, our parents, via the Listening Sessions every Wednesday (11:00 am - 12:00 pm) and Thursday (6:00 pm - 7:00 pm). On behalf of the school board and staff, I appreciate your understanding and patience as we work through some challenging times. Please know that our priority continues to be the safety and wellbeing of your children.

Stay safe and warm!

Maychy Vu
Executive Director