



UNION COUNTY VOCATIONAL - TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

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Mrs. Gwendolyn S. Ryan
Superintendent of Schools

August 30, 2020

Dear UCVTS Community,

As we move forward in preparing for the start of another school year, this one different than any we have ever experienced, we continue to try and navigate the many challenges associated with re-opening schools during unprecedented times.

The District has received many requests for faculty/staff leave and for accommodations; both of which affect our ability to provide appropriate staffing for on-site learning. Additionally, there is currently a State-wide shortage of substitutes and we, along with many districts, are struggling to find adequate coverage for leave replacements and daily substitutes needed to provide on-site instruction. Specifically, we are not currently able to provide adequate supervision without compromising social distancing measures.

For this reason, I am writing to announce that the District has decided to **delay the start of onsite instruction for all full-time students until Monday, October 5, 2020 (Phase 1)**. This delay should give us more time to find the staffing coverage we need to effectively and safely provide on-site instruction. The first day of school for all full-time students remains September 8, 2020 and will be delivered in a fully remote setting. Please follow the link below for schedule details. [Link to Schedules For Start of 2020-2021 UCVTS School Year](#). Helping our newest, grade 9 students adjust to a new school remains a priority. There will be scheduled time on the morning of September 8 for freshman students to come to campus, pick up materials, have their ID picture taken and walk through the building. Additional orientation activities will continue virtually on September 9. Building principals will be reaching out with additional information pertaining to grade 9 students later this week.

The Union County Career and Technical Institute **(shared-time and transition) students will return, as planned, beginning on Tuesday, September 8, 2020, as will the Raymond J. Lesniak Experience, Strength and Hope Recovery High School and the Simon Youth Academy at the Mills at Jersey Gardens.**

The district remains confident that our Restart and Recovery planning will ensure a safe and meaningful return to school at any point and for all of our programs. Be assured we are more committed than ever to provide the same high quality, rigorous, career and technical educational experiences that we always provide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gwendolyn S. Ryan".

Gwendolyn S. Ryan
Superintendent of Schools