The value of education for the students of Cornell is something I take very seriously. We all know that a high quality education will spur greater opportunities and provide more options for students to be successful no matter what they decide to do as adults. This spring when we were mandated to close school, the teachers worked hard to continue lessons via Zoom and to make classes as close to normal as they could. However, we do understand that for many students, a virtual education is very difficult and their level of learning may not have been what it should have been.

Given this, we do plan to start the 2020-21 school year in person. While no one knows if we will be able to continue in person throughout the year, we at least need to start together so teachers and their students can build relationships and set expectations for the year. There will be many restrictions on our day. Student temperatures will be taken before allowing them on the bus and/or in the buildings. A “Grab-N-Go” breakfast will likely be provided in classroom and socializing at lunch will be reduced. Students will stay in designated classrooms more and teachers will move to them when possible.

These and other changes are being planned in order mitigate risk of spreading covid-19 if/when we have a case in school. Hopefully we can continue to have school throughout the year, but please make plans for children in case we need to close a classroom, building or the district. As we saw this spring, these changes may come quickly and without much notice, so having tentative plans in place is very helpful. We all need to work together to make this coming school year as successful as possible.