



**TO:** All Mon County Schools Students, Parents and Staff  
**FROM:** Dr. Eddie Campbell  
*Superintendent, Monongalia County Schools*  
**DATE:** Sept. 8, 2020  
**re:** First day of 2020 School Year

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First, allow me to offer sincere congratulations to our students, their parents and our staff for an amazing opening day of this unique new school year.

As our teachers connected with their students today, the number-one question from the kids was “When can I come back to school?”. Obviously, our students are ready and eager to reconnect with their friends and teachers – and they’re ready and eager to learn.

Although we can’t answer that important question right now, we can assure our students that they *will* see their teachers and principals soon. Staff are planning socially-distanced porch visits, lawn fairs, and meet-and-beeps in their students’ neighborhoods in the coming days.

Our staff was ready to reconnect with their students, too. Across the board, we experienced a staff absenteeism rate of just 8-percent today – substantially lower than we usually have for a first day of school.

Also on this opening day, our schools distributed materials and worked on a few continuing connectivity issues. We’ve established 15 mobile hot spots in school buses around the county and will add a few more before the end of the week.

Central Office staff were in every school in the county today, lending their support as needed. Deputy Superintendent Donna Talerico and I plan to drop by several schools in the next few days, as well, to let our staff know that their efforts are appreciated.

Together, we got this school year under way today – and, even though it didn’t resemble any previous first day – it was a successful first day.

Thanks for your continuing support – and let’s keep this momentum rolling.