



**COLUMBUS  
CITY SCHOOLS**

## **Avalon Elementary School**

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*Mission: Each student is highly educated, prepared for leadership and service, and empowered for success as a citizen in a global community.*

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August 24, 2020

Dear Avalon Family,

### **Welcome to the 20-21 School Year!**

I hope this letter finds you and your family in good health. During this unprecedented time it is important that we remain positive, hopeful and focused on working together to support students. As we begin this school year virtually, please plan on distance learning activities happening with students on **September 8, 2020 - October 27, 2020**.

We understand virtual learning may be challenging for families; our goal is to support you as much as possible. Last school year when we transitioned to virtual learning we had on average a **50%** participation rate with Avalon families from March to May. This equates to about **225** students having no formal education for the last 3 months of school. The percentage of students who did not engage in distance learning was alarming and deeply disappointing.

As a school community we can not afford for this to be our reality this school year. Research shows that students who fall behind in early grades are more likely to drop out of school and have a difficult time bridging learning gaps. Therefore kids who fall behind tend to stay behind academically. Our students deserve much more and since learning virtually is the best we can offer at this time, every child **must** have family and school support to engage in distance learning.

As we begin this school year on **September 8, 2020**, the number of students who participate in online learning **must be 100%**. The information which follows will help families start the year with the resources and details needed to get off to a great start.

- Please check your emails for a Back to School welcome video sent 8/31/20. Look for information on teacher virtual orientation coming soon.
- We will have a Chromebook (laptop computer) and materials pick up at Avalon on **Tuesday September 1st through Wednesday September 9th**. Times are listed on enclosure. If you have already have a Chromebook issued by the district for remote learning, please keep and use that one; do **NOT** come for another one unless you have another student at Avalon.
- Included with this letter you will find a staff roster, teacher homeroom assignments on front label of envelope, staff email addresses and supply lists.

We miss our students and look forward to seeing them virtually for now and face to face as soon as it is safe. If you have any questions, please call the school office at **614-365-5361** or email the person you wish to contact. Face to face office hours are irregular and infrequent. It is best to call between **8:30am-3:00pm** or email anytime.

I welcome you to the 20-21 school year with excitement and optimism. I know this will be a good school year of collaboration, learning and exploration! Please join us on the Back to School welcome video. Stay safe and well.

Sincerely,  
Lenelle E. Taylor, Principal