QUEEN ANNE’S COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS WILL REOPEN WITH VIRTUAL LEARNING FOR THE FIRST SEMESTER

CENTREVILLE, MD – Queen Anne’s County Public Schools (QACPS) will open the 2020-2021 academic year with virtual learning-only for the first semester.

Superintendent Dr. Andrea M. Kane recommended and the Board of Education approved at its July 22, 2020 meeting a distance learning plan for all students as the safest option for children, staff, and the community. The school system offered the plan for consideration after many conversations with Queen Anne’s County Department of Health officials and receiving more than 500 public survey responses.

“We continue to prepare and look forward to welcoming students back into our school buildings, but recognize current concerns and risks during the coronavirus pandemic,” Dr. Kane said. “Our priority is providing the safest learning environment possible for our students, educators, staff, and the community. Virtual learning this fall will be richer and more robust than was possible when schools closed early this spring and will include direct instruction and graded work for students.”

Following the CDC guidelines will allow QACPS the ability to bring in small groups of specialized students such as special education, English learners and CTE in accordance with CTE guidelines

QACPS will continue to provide technology devices and increase Internet access for needy students and educators. The school system purchased 400 mobile hotspots for teachers and disconnected students without home Internet access for remote learning when schools closed this spring. QACPS also is adding Wi-Fi access outside all of its public school buildings. So far, the
school system has added Internet access points to Church Hill, Grasonville, and Sudlersville Elementary Schools, and Sudlersville Middle School, where students and employees can access the internet from school parking lots.

The QACPS District Plan to Reopen is a comprehensive roadmap outlining the essential components and actions required to safely open schools for the 2020-2021 school year given a variety of different factors related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The plan covers six critical areas: (1) facilities and operations, (2) continuity of teaching and learning, (3) accountability, grading and reporting, (4) social and emotional support, (5) technology and connectivity and (6) staffing, professional development, and teacher evaluations.

QACPS will submit its plan to the Maryland State Department of Education and post on the school system website by August 14, 2020.

###