



## ANTIETAM SCHOOL DISTRICT

Together We: Encourage Learners, Inspire Growth, Embrace Community

Timothy A. Matlack, PhD  
Superintendent

August 1, 2024

Fellow Antietam Mountaineers:

Yesterday the district was made aware of the fact that Judge James E. Gavin issued two orders that vacated the decision of the Mount Penn Zoning Hearing Board, remanding the matter of the exceptions provided to the district for its building use back to the Zoning Board to receive additional evidence. Unfortunately, the decision was rendered without our district solicitor or the Zoning Board Hearing solicitor being given the opportunity to respond. Ultimately, this decision would effectively negate the district's ability to begin school on time as planned for grades 4-12. The modular units intended for our K-3 learners would still be on track for use at Stony Creek.

It is our hope that the matter can be resolved swiftly and the current plan for the learning spaces to serve our 1,200 kids can move forward in a timely manner. The district and the Borough of Mount Penn are in communication and the Borough is committed to working with the district to ensure requisite building code and zoning ordinances are met as we work towards students safely returning by August 26. Additionally, the Borough appointed inspectors are ensuring safe performance of work and safety of our buildings frequently and will complete final inspections prior to any return to the buildings.

In the interim, the district has begun considering alternative avenues to avoid a delay to in person learning. Given the impact of this news, we understand there will be concern on the part of our families. Please rest assured that the district will continue to share information concerning the timeline for resolving this issue as well as any potential changes to the current plan.

In this time of uncertainty, we want to reaffirm the seriousness of our mission statement that **Together We: Encourage Learners, Inspire Growth, Embrace Community**. Our top priority is to ensure a safe path to in person learning for our students and families. We will be working tirelessly in this pursuit and will continue to share information with the community in a timely manner. Now and always, Mounts Climb Together.

Sincerely,

Timothy A. Matlack, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools