

As the beginning of the school year approaches I wanted to take a moment and thank every parent, guardian, and community member who has supported both myself and the district during the school closure. I look forward to seeing the students on campus on Thursday. The staff has spent the summer preparing for the upcoming school year. One of our focuses this summer has been ensuring that if we have a case of COVID in the district we will be able to do contact tracing and keep interactions between students to a minimum. In order to facilitate this, there are a few things that will be different this school year that I would like to take a moment and touch on.

At this time, we plan to have on campus face-to-face instruction five days a week for as long as we feel it is safe for the students to attend. If at any point we feel that the safety and health of your students comes into question, we have a plan to transition to an at home learning model. You will be receiving information on this and other topics on the first day of school and as the year goes on.

- If you feel that your child has an underlying and documented medical condition that makes you feel it is not in your child's best interest to receive their education in a face-to-face manner, please contact me at school so that we can make arrangements to have your child continue to be educated to the best of our ability.
- If you would like your child enrolled in a MOVIP or MOCAP program for alternate education, please contact the school.
- If your child is sick, please keep them home. If your child has a fever, they should stay home. The student should be fever free for a minimum of 24 hours without the aid of medicine. Please do not give your child a fever reducer and send them to school. You could be putting the health of the entire school district and our ability to provide face to face instruction at risk if you do this. If someone in your house has been exposed to COVID please keep your child at home until a negative COVID test has been returned. If it will take more than a day or two for the test to get back from the doctor, please contact the school and we will make arrangements to get work to you so that your child does not fall behind. If someone in your household tests positive for COVID please keep all members of your household at home until the health department deems it is safe for your child to return to school. This includes all afterschool activities.
- We are going to do our best to limit the number of people in the school buildings. Because of this we will not be having open house and back to school night. If you have a question for your child's teacher, please contact them at school. We will make arrangements to have a meeting in a safe environment. Also, if you have to pick your child up at school we will ask that you call the office from your car and we will bring your child to you.
- I have also had multiple questions about the use of masks in school. At this time, we will not mandate that students wear masks all day at school. We have done our best to promote social distancing throughout the school day. If social distancing is not possible we will ask that students wear masks. For example, it is not possible to social distance during passing period. Because of this, students will be required to wear masks during passing periods in grades 7-12. In order to minimize distractions from masks the district has purchased enough masks for all students in grades K-12 to wear on a daily basis. The masks are a plain white mask. There is no writing or slogans on them. These are the only masks that students will be allowed to wear at school unless there is an allergy issue. The masks are made of cotton. The masks will be available to every student in grades K-12 and will be distributed to students in grades 7-12 every day. At the end of the day, the masks will be soaked in bleach water and laundered to return to

students for use the next day. We will label the masks so that students will use the same masks. They will have more than one mask that they use in class, but no one else will use a mask another student has used.

- The bus routes will also be different. We are adding 1-2 busses to our normal bus routes. This is done to minimize the number of students on a bus. Family groups will be sat together on the busses and students will be assigned seats. If your child refuses to sit and stay in the correct seat, they will not be allowed to ride the bus. Because of limited seating on the busses, sending students to places other than their designated drop off site will be difficult. If you call school and say that your child needs to go to a different location, we may not be able to allow this to happen. Masks will be encouraged on busses, but they will not be mandated. Masks will be available on the bus. The driver's number one priority is getting your child to and from home safely. They will not be able to stop the bus to make a student put a mask on. If you want your child to wear a mask you will have to tell them that they have to wear a mask.
- Please do not drop your child off at school before 8:00. We will have places for them to go and be monitored after 8:00, but not before. We cannot have students congregating in front of the school like we have in the past. We will also not have morning tutoring as we have done in the past.
- Breakfast will be served in the students' room before school. We do not have enough room to have students eat in the cafeteria in large groups. Breakfast will be \$1.30 a day if you would like for your child to eat. To start the year, the main breakfast entrée will be cereal everyday.
- If you have a water bottle please send it to school for your student to use. We have disabled all of the water fountains and installed bottle fillers in all of the buildings.

There will be other changes as well, but please remember that all of the changes that we are making are so that we can hopefully have in person instruction as long as possible. We feel that this is best for not only the student's education needs, but their social and emotional needs as well.