



Superintendent's Office
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Dear Parents and Guardians:

I hope this message finds you well and enjoying some of the absolutely beautiful weather we have had thus far this summer. I know many of you are wondering about what the start of the next school year holds; therefore, I wanted to provide you an update and also solicit some feedback.

Our first "Reopening Committee" meeting was conducted on Tuesday, June 23rd. As mentioned in a prior communication, we have broad representation from every facet of our schools and facilities as well as transportation, public health, and community stakeholders which include local medical professionals (all of whom are also parents in the District). The bulk of our first meeting was to begin to lay out plans for the return of students in the fall along with considering what it may look like in each of our buildings. Although there is still much work to be done, I thought it worthwhile to share our preliminary plans with you.

As alluded to above and based on local circumstances at this time, our primary plan is to return to in-person instruction in the fall with various preventive and precautionary measures in place. Staying home when sick, frequent handwashing, maintaining space between individuals as much as possible, more frequent cleaning/ disinfection of touchpoints in facilities, avoiding relatively large groups (in cafeterias, combined classes, etc.), limit or eliminate materials being sent to and from school, and limiting visitors and non-essential personnel in schools are some examples. Face coverings are highly recommended for all (particularly older students and adults) and will likely be required for staff; however, not required for students. There is also some recent evidence which suggests that transmission of COVID-19 may not occur as easily among younger school aged students (e.g. 4K-5th grade) which is advantageous for the return of students to in-person school at the elementary level, with possibly fewer modifications needed in those buildings. In addition to the preventive and precautionary measures, we will also have some students who cannot attend for various reasons and in those cases, we will have virtual and/or offsite options for families to ensure that their child(ren)'s needs are met to the best of our ability given the circumstances. Each building will develop plans that are relevant to that particular space, so there may be some minute differences based on the facility that individual students are attending. That said, what is possible or plausible at an elementary school or River Cities High School may not be at WRAMS or Lincoln High School and vice versa.

In addition, we have to plan for the *possibility* that students cannot attend in-person at some point due to a localized outbreak; if there is a significant number of staff or students who are suspected of having COVID-19 and subsequently are required to self-quarantine for 14 days, it is possible that a school would have to be closed for that period as a result of an inability to secure qualified substitutes to continue instruction or because too many students may be absent due to quarantine. In that case, the building would likely move to virtual/ off site learning until the facility can be staffed appropriately and/or students return.

There are approaches that can be employed at our secondary buildings which would reduce the number of students in the building each day (alternate day schedules, one week on- one week off, etc.) that would not work as well (if at all) in our elementary buildings. Those approaches could potentially be implemented if local circumstances dictate the need to reduce numbers in our secondary buildings since those are the largest facilities we have; however, these sorts of scenarios may not be ideal for many of our students and families. We are also planning to explore the *possibility* of utilizing East Junior High for some students to allow for better cohorting of students and staff and reduced numbers in general. I want to emphasize that the use of East (or other vacant facilities) may not be logistically plausible, however it is worth investigating.

Most of what occurs in our community over the coming weeks and months regarding viral spread is under our individual control; meaning, if we all engage in some basic measures to stem the spread of infection, we will hopefully be able to conduct in-person instruction for quite some time. As a reminder, those methods are: stay home if you are sick, use good handwashing techniques more frequently or hand sanitizer when handwashing is not available, avoid prolonged contact with others from outside of your household, and cover your mouth when coughing or sneezing, utilize face coverings, etc. In addition, please be sure your children are up-to-date on vaccinations and well care. Immunizations are the best way to protect them against 16 harmful, potentially deadly diseases. Due to the pandemic, fewer families are seeking well care for their children and are falling behind on vaccinations. There is concern that outbreaks from vaccine preventable illnesses (like measles, whooping cough) could result due to low vaccination rates worldwide. Please contact your health care provider to schedule well care. Protective measures are in place at all clinics to ensure safety.

With respect to reopening in the fall, we are also planning on running buses for students who need transportation; however, we are asking any parents that can transport their own child(ren) to do so in order to reduce the number of students riding the bus as much as possible. Buses will be cleaned and sanitized before and after use, and students will be asked to sit alone or with other family members where possible.

More details on what school will look like in each of our buildings will be communicated over the coming weeks when they are developed and further refined; again, they will likely be unique and specific to individual schools. What is shared above is simply some preliminary information on our planning and preparation thus far, and is meant to provide you with a general idea. I also understand that there are a number of questions that remain regarding athletics and co-curricular offerings; we will provide details to our school community as soon as those details are known.

Based on the information shared above, please click on the link below to complete a very brief survey. This survey will be available to collect your feedback through July 6, 2020.

[CLICK HERE TO PROVIDE YOUR FEEDBACK](#)

Thank you for your continued support and patience, as well as your feedback. More information will be sent periodically throughout the summer as it becomes available.

Sincerely,



Craig G. Broeren
Superintendent