

Office of the Superintendent



July 20, 2020

Greetings, KCPS Families!

We know that this communication has been much anticipated. As a staff, we have spent many sleepless nights and busy days creating plans and protocols to ensure, to the best of our ability, a safe and welcoming environment for our students and staff as we return to school this fall. Our planning priorities have included health, safety and student learning.

We have been in ongoing communication with health officials and have received guidance from multiple health agencies. While we are still in the midst of a pandemic, we are using the best advice and guidance available so that we can offer the best learning environment for our students in a safe and responsible manner.

We had been preparing to release our reopening plans with you today. However, the Kansas City Health Department issued new and updated guidance stating that in-person school was not advised in Kansas City. This update is prompting us to change direction.

The number of positive COVID-19 cases are rising rapidly in our region. Given this fact, we need to adjust our reopening plans. We had intended to offer in-person learning options, but those are no longer advised at the moment. Instead, we will pivot and adjust our reopening plans throughout the next week in collaboration with the health department, our staff, our Board of Directors and local officials. We are committed to keeping you updated along the way. As always, our goal is to protect the health of our community while continuing to provide a great public education for our children.

While we adjust and continue planning, please know that we have several FAQ documents, health plans, nutrition plans and instructional plans ready for you. We are simply adjusting these according to the updated guidance from the Kansas City Health Department.

We look forward to serving our families and the Kansas City community this school year. We know it will still look different in some ways, but we are committed to growing our students and upholding the responsibility to educate effectively while helping our students thrive. Thank you for your grace, your flexibility and your mindset of leading with the best intentions for all.

Yours in education,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Bedell".

Mark T. Bedell
Superintendent