



Dear Minnetonka Families,

I hope your summer is going well, and to our new incoming families, welcome! I want to provide you with an update on planning for the 2020-21 school year.

### **Fall Planning Update**

The Governor has promised to give all schools in Minnesota the limits of openness that we can use for fall on July 30. In the meantime, Minnetonka Schools is currently developing seven different possible options for the 2020-21 school year for the School Board to consider at its meeting on August 6. All of the options will include a virtual component for families who would like their students to remain at home.

For the past few weeks, seven planning groups of administrators, teachers and parents have been working together on the various options to outline what school will look like this fall. One group is working on an option focused on fully open schools, one is working on what a full e-learning situation would look like and five are focused on various hybrid configurations for fall that place students in school some of the time and at home some of the time. We also have teams of parents and teachers who will critique each of the options to be sure they would work.

Thank you to all of the parents who filled out the e-learning survey, as well as to those who have called and emailed with suggestions, concerns and resources to help us with this planning. [Here is a summary](#) of input provided by parents who took the survey. All parent input is being considered by the seven planning groups. Thank you, as well, to the more than 500 parents who offered to help with planning efforts and to the many selected from that group to serve directly on the planning teams. We greatly appreciate your assistance

and input.

We expect to share much more comprehensive information with you by August 1. We will then know the Governor's direction, as well as the results of the work from our seven planning teams.

### **Mask Requirements**

I also want to update you on a new requirement. As you may have heard, the Governor has issued an executive order requiring all Minnesotans to wear a face covering in indoor businesses and indoor public settings beginning Saturday, July 25, 2020. This **does** include all public and private school district buildings and facilities.

We have summer programming occurring in many of our buildings, so I want to be sure you are all aware of our new guidelines with regard to masks. Beginning this Saturday, all adults (staff and visitors) and children over five years old will be required to wear a mask while in school buildings. Masks are also required outdoors on school property when social distancing of six feet cannot be maintained.

There are some situations where a student or adult may be exempt from wearing a mask. According to the Minnesota Department of Health, those who are exempt include:

- Children under age 2 years (The Minnesota Department of Health advises they should not wear a mask)
- Children between the ages of 2 and 5 years old are not required to wear face coverings, but are encouraged to wear a face covering if they can do so reliably in compliance with CDC guidance (i.e., without frequently touching or removing the mask)
- People who have medical or other health conditions, disabilities, or mental health, developmental, or behavioral needs that make it difficult to tolerate wearing a face covering. **If your child falls into this category and is participating in a summer program through the school district, please contact the lead of the summer program**

**your child is involved in to let that staff member know.**

In some situations, masks may be temporarily removed in our school buildings and facilities. This includes:

- When students are participating in organized sports or exercising and a mask makes breathing difficult
- When students are practicing or performing a musical instrument
- When a student or staff member is presenting or giving instructions
- When a student is swimming or showering and the face covering would get wet
- When eating or drinking
- While communicating with an individual who is deaf or hearing impaired or has a disability, medical condition or mental health condition that makes communication with that individual while wearing a face covering difficult
- When an individual is alone, including when alone in an office, a room, a cubicle with walls that are higher than face level when social distancing is maintained, a vehicle, or the cab of heavy equipment or machinery, or an enclosed work area.

In each situation, social distancing should be maintained.

Types of face coverings may include a paper or disposable mask, a cloth mask, a neck gaiter, a scarf, a bandanna or a religious face covering. The face covering must cover the nose and mouth completely. The covering should not be overly tight or restrictive and should feel comfortable to wear. Alternatives to masks such as clear face shields may be considered for those with health conditions or situations where wearing a mask is problematic.

If you have additional questions about how this new requirement may affect your

student's involvement in summer programming and activities, please contact the staff lead for the program your student is involved in. Here is more information on the mask requirements from the [Minnesota Department of Health](#).

### **Outbreaks**

One last update I want to provide is some clarity regarding information on COVID-19 outbreaks. I have received some questions from parents about whether there have been outbreaks that the District is aware of among student populations and whether school districts can and will provide specific information if there is a positive case or an outbreak among students or staff. The Minnesota Department of Health will work closely with us if we learn of a positive case or an outbreak, advising us on when and whether we need to temporarily close a program or school for deep cleaning. Additionally, they will work with us to contact all families and staff who may have been in close contact with someone who tests positive. School districts, due to HIPAA restrictions, are not able to provide details to the public about any individuals' health information.

We do commit to working as diligently as possible to provide your family with a safe school environment. We have been busy putting in partitions at reception areas, setting up temperature-taking stations and ordering hand-held temperature scanners, equipping key areas in our buildings with air purifying devices that remove pollutants from the air, posting social distancing reminder decals throughout buildings, stocking up on masks and hand sanitizer and working on transportation, food service and cleaning plans for every possible scenario. All of this information will be shared in detail as we get closer to the start of the school year.

Thank you for your continued support of Minnetonka Schools. I hope you are staying safe and having a wonderful summer with your family!

Dennis Peterson  
Superintendent