

August 18, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The District has been a busy place this summer as you may have noticed! Not only do we have two construction projects nearing completion but our staff has been busy planning and working to welcome students to a return to five full days a week of in-person instruction on September 9th.

As we look towards the start of a new school year, our primary goals remain; keeping our schools open, maintaining productive and engaging instructional strategies for teaching and learning, and minimizing the number of students and staff faced with the need to quarantine. Following the CDC guidance and requiring masks of all students, staff, and visitors will enable us to meet these goals.

The requirement for masking will be enforced however, masks will not be required outdoors or while students are eating. As we had last year, there will be a process for those who need to be exempted from the universal masking requirement.

During lunch, students will be seated 3 feet apart with plexiglass in places where students are facing one another. At the secondary level, there are multiple locations for lunch and an additional lunch period has been added to those schedules.

As we communicated to you on August 4th, the [CDC guidance](#) recommends universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status. "In order to maximize protection from the Delta variant and prevent possibly spreading it to others, wear a mask indoors in public if you are in an area of [substantial or high transmission](#)." Wearing a mask is required in our buildings regardless of vaccination status.

Universal masking will also decrease the likelihood students will need to quarantine. Per the [CDC guidance](#) regarding close contacts, if a student is a close contact of a symptomatic individual, and both are masked and three feet apart, the student who is the close contact can remain in school. This is a change from the guidance under which we were operating last school year.

Given the recent changes in the COVID-19 community spread since the last time we surveyed families about virtual learning, we are issuing a brief survey to elementary families to learn more about needs at this level. The survey will be sent this evening and remain open through Wednesday, August 25, 2021.

We recognize this is still a challenging time for all and while some will want additional mitigation measures, others will want less. We all share in the excitement about the return to five full days of in-person instruction for all students.

Soon you will be hearing from your child's principal who will share the opening of school details. Enjoy these remaining weeks of the summer and the excitement a new school year brings.

Sincerely,

Maureen Reusche Ed.D.  
Superintendent