

Parents and Students:

Our School Board voted to reopen in-person schools beginning August 17<sup>th</sup>. Although this is very good news, I want to communicate that August 17<sup>th</sup> will just be Phase 1 of fully re-opening. We will still provide distance learning. Students can choose to return in-person, or continue to stay with distance learning. If you choose in-person, you will always have the opportunity to move to distance learning at any point. However, once you choose to move to distance learning from in-person, you must stay with that learning platform until fall break. After fall break, if we are still in Phase 1, you can again choose between in-person and distance learning.

If you choose to attend school in-person, you must abide by the mandate to wear masks while you are on-campus. When social distancing can be achieved, you will be able to take your mask off, but masks will need to be worn at all other times. Along with masks, daily temperature checks, and additional hand washing stations are mandatory to be able to return to in person. If we do not abide by these mandates, we run the risk of our school having to shut down the in-person learning. If you are uncomfortable with these mandates, perhaps it will be a better option for your student to remain with the distance learning tool. There will also be a “COVID-19 Acknowledgement Form” that we need each student/family to sign and return to the office. I will have these forms available in the office as well as on our website before Friday.

Also, Phase 1 of in-person learning will start off with M-TH (in-person), and Friday (remote learning) all 5 days will be mandatory and attendance will be taken. Having no students on campus on Fridays will allow for our staff to do a more thorough cleaning of our campus. This will also allow our teachers time to prep for both their classroom as well as the students that choose to stay with distance learning.

Bus service will not be provided in August. Once we get an accurate and consistent number of students attending that will use our bus service, we will

work with our transportation department to see what adjustments need to be made within our buses to be able to transport under current health and safety guidelines. I hope to be able to begin bus service on September 8<sup>th</sup>. If that date changes, I will make sure we communicate that to you.

We have a great opportunity here. However, it is very important to realize that we all have different opinions. We all have different viewpoints. We all have a different level of concern. If we want to continue to be able to provide different educational options like we are doing....if we want to be able to keep our school open for families that want to send their students....we need to be empathetic to those with a different viewpoint than ours....and we need to work to help each other feel comfortable. If that is our main focus, we all can win.

Continue to monitor the website and our Facebook page for information.

Thank you all for your support.

KYLE HART