



Artesia Public Schools

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Superintendent
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Dear Bulldog Families,

A nine weeks is in the books, and I thank you very much for the extraordinary effort you all have given to make it as successful as possible. Figuring out remote learning has been challenging to say the least but, in some aspects, working on it together has made us better teachers, administrators, parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, guardians, and friends. However, too many aspects of remote learning have resulted in low grades and extreme emotional stress for too many students.

For that reason, we will continue to provide in-person learning to as many students as we are allowed to have on our campuses. Unfortunately, I am not optimistic at this time that we will be able to provide in-person opportunities for more students in the near future. The number of positive cases in our county and across New Mexico are far exceeding the criteria that has been set for our return to Hybrid learning. So, we need to make sure we are fully committed to Remote learning anticipating that we will be in this mode for the remainder of the semester. In an effort to reduce case counts, I ask that you wear a face covering when you are out and socially distance to the greatest extent possible.

If circumstances change and additional opportunities for in-person learning become available, we will communicate that immediately to you, our staff, and our school board for consideration. We know kids have more opportunities to excel in all areas of their lives when in school, so we will continue working toward that goal. We will keep working toward that goal while also maintaining our focus on the overall safety and well-being of students, families, and staff.

We received valuable input from you on the survey many of you participated in a few weeks ago. Please watch for a follow-up survey next week to see how we are doing on the opportunities for improvement identified in the previous survey. The survey will again give you the opportunity to share your family's experiences with Remote and APS Virtual learning.

Finally, please be aware that the Eddy County Commission will be considering a resolution at their meeting next Tuesday in support of local school boards having the authority to make decisions about students' return to school. Additionally, they are inviting county residents including educators, parents, and students to write letters in support of more opportunities for in-person learning and full participation in athletics and activities. If you are in agreement with their efforts, you may turn in letters at the Chamber of Commerce or Henry's BBQ by the close of business Monday.

For those of you concerned with in-person learning, please remember that APS Virtual will continue to be an option for your family throughout the school year.

In closing, I want to remind you of what is commonly referred to as the Serenity Prayer. Regardless of your faith, I believe it provides us with needed insight by encouraging us to "*accept the things we cannot change, courage to change the things we can, and the wisdom to know the difference.*" I encourage you to personally consider those things taking the actions you deem appropriate.

I continue to be very thankful for the support from our community, the efforts of our students and their families, and the leadership of our staff members. Through our continued work together, we will prevail.

It's Great to Be a Bulldog!

Sincerely,

John Ross Null