

Important Family Update

August 12, 2020



From the Desk of Dr. Mary Henderson

Dear D12 Families,

I have reminders and much information to share today, and I apologize in advance for a lengthy update:

First Day of School for Students: Monday, August 24

[2020-21 School Year Calendar](#)

Teacher assignments to be shared with families on Tuesday, August 18

2020-21 school hours are as listed on each school's website

Meet and Greet

As shared at last night's Board of Education meeting, we must rework our Meet and Greet plan due to our commitment to managing and ensuring the safety of all students, staff and families. Each teacher will be providing families with a video of their individual classrooms as well as a video introduction no later than Wednesday evening, August 19. Additionally, each grade level, K-8, will have a drive through time to see their teacher in person as well as pick up symptom certification packets (in-person instruction) and curriculum materials (remote learners), to take place on Thursday, August 20 (SHS) and Friday, August 21 (RMS). This time slot is a required drive through only event. Regardless of where you live, families may not walk to school for the teacher meet and material pick up. This is to ensure that social distancing is enforced at all times. While not our typical Meet and Greet, we believe this to be the safest option. All families can expect to receive an email from their building principal with the assigned grade level times and logistical details tomorrow, Thursday, August 13.

Special Board of Education Meeting to be held Friday, August 14

As we have continued to collaboratively work with our staff and Board of Education on our return to in-person instruction plan, issues rise to the surface that must be addressed. One such issue is that a number of our staff members have school-aged children whose districts have announced that they are doing remote learning only or an A/B schedule due to their district's unique staffing and/or logistical needs. There are staff members who have exhausted all avenues of seeking out daily care for their children so that they may be in our D12 classrooms teaching our students. The Board of Education will be discussing and taking action on potential solutions that would involve the district supporting the supervision of these students so that their parents, our staff, may continue in their D12 roles. As part of several federal legislative mandates, the Families First Corona Response Act (FFCRA) guarantees any employee the right to 10 weeks of leave paid at two-thirds of his/her salary if a child's school is closed due to COVID-19. Additionally, the reality is that if these staff members were to need to take a leave of absence for this reason, we would not have sufficient staff available to resume in-person instruction. As many surrounding districts have moved their plans to full remote learning, the number of staff taking a leave is often a determining factor as are other logistical issues specific to each district. It is for this reason and the 65% of students' families who are returning to in-person instruction that we are bringing potential solutions to the Board of Education in order to prevent this.

If a solution is not able to be determined and successfully acted on, the Board of Education will need to have a discussion and vote on moving to a full remote learning plan. ***If a solution is identified and approved by the Board of Education, there will NOT need to be a discussion and vote on a change to a full remote learning plan. We will continue with our full, five days per week in-person instruction plan.***

The special board meeting will take place on Friday, August 14 at 6:00 p.m. This meeting will take place virtually with the Board of Education President, Steve Zurek, and I in person at the Administrative Office in accordance with the Open Meetings Act updated executive order. While the public may not attend this meeting in person, this meeting will be livestreamed via our YouTube channel with a link sent to families at approximately 5:45 p.m. Community members may submit public comment ahead of time using this [form](#). Additionally, public comments will be held until after the presentation of solutions and discussion so that community members may continue to add public comment up until that portion of the meeting, using the form link above.

Sincerely,
Dr. Mary Henderson
Superintendent