

DUNCAN UNIFIED SCHOOLS

July 27, 2020

Duncan School Families,

Let's make this simple: We are still and will continue to be impacted by COVID-19! Surprises and changes are a given in this environment. As a school, we are committed to adjusting to these changes and making the best of our situation as we move through the school year.

What we know:

First day of school with "remote" learning: Wednesday, August 5

Teachers will be contacting their students and setting up a Parent/Teacher/Student conference during the days of Aug. 5 – August 14. Please make every effort to attend this meeting. We will NOT have the Meet-&-Greet at the Elementary, or the Red & Grey event at the High School this year. Meeting with your teachers to set the groundwork for the year will be more important this year than any other.

Once we begin in-person learning, wearing masks during certain activities is going to be necessary. Examples are: buses, during entry and exit of campus, during class changes, during congested lab activities, etc. Other times, when social distancing is possible, students will not need to wear masks. Examples are: during lunch, when students are separated and learning in the classroom, during recess time, etc. We need to start talking with our children about the importance of having a mask that can be used when there is a need.

What we don't know:

In order to begin in-person learning on or after August 17 we will need to meet numerous benchmarks as well as have the approval of the County Health Director. The benchmarks will not be available until August 7, therefore it is very difficult to make guarantees about the unknown. I will assure you that we will do everything in our power to meet those benchmarks when they are made available to us.

COVID-19 cases and the spread of the virus in our community will continue to change. As we move through the school year, we will obviously have to react to these changes when they occur.

I am proud to be a Wildkat and I am thankful for a community who supports our school the way our community does. Although we are not beginning the year exactly as we want, I am excited to make this year work for our staff, students and families.

Respectfully,



D. Eldon Merrell

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