

July 2021

To: KSD Employees
From: Luanne Barron, Superintendent
Re: Welcome Back!

I am excited to welcome everyone back to the 2021-2022 school year! I hope that you took the time for yourself to do the things you enjoy and return feeling re-energized. I am looking forward to an incredible new school year.

We will fully reopen in the fall and will be following all CDC guidelines concerning the COVID virus and the highly contagious Delta variant. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) just announced the guidance for K-12 schools on July 9, 2021. Here is the link: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html. The CDC recommends that masks should be worn indoors by all individuals, aged 2 and older who are not fully vaccinated and those who received vaccinations are not required to wear masks. KSD administrators, head school nurse, and I have agreed that all students and staff, whether individuals are vaccinated or not, will continue to wear masks and maintain physical distancing. These precautions along with hand washing and vaccination will make in person learning safe and possible for everyone. A vaccinated individual can transmit the virus without feeling any symptoms to those who are not vaccinated. With the substantial number of students who are not vaccinated, we want to go the extra step to make sure everyone is safe.

We also recognize the impact of face masks on deaf children as they create more barriers to the learning process – block visibility of face or mouth, prevent lipreading/mouthing and reduce clarity of speech and sound. ASL is highly dependent on the use of facial movements, and wearing masks can reduce learning greatly. We are asking for full cooperation from students, parents, and staff to wear clear masks. Clear masks have clear panels over the mouth that can help restore these important visual cues and help individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing communicate more clearly. These masks will help our students and staff communicate more effectively. Clear masks will be provided to staff and students or you may purchase your own clear masks.

This is my fifth year as your Superintendent and I am committed to staying the course we have set for ourselves by continuing to provide stability as we change and grow as a school. My main focus this year is “Make Your Mark.” You will hear me addressing this theme throughout the year as we explore what it means, how it applies to our work, and the differences we can make in our students and their families’ lives.

New Employees: Welcome to KSD and we look forward to having you here. The new employee orientation is on August 2-3. (see attached schedule). Please stop by the security office and security will escort you to the west wing conference room.

KSD Employees: Attached you will find the professional development schedule for the return to school on August 9th. Please check with your supervisor as to which workshop you should be attending.

I look forward to having you back on the 9th of August as I have exciting news to share with you.