

July 8, 2020

Dear Hatch Valley Public Schools Community,

July 1st marked the first day of the new school calendar year. July 1st also marked the day HVPS leadership team members began working on a district reentry plan. As we all know, the 2019-2020 school year ended with New Mexico schools providing instruction under a remote learning plan due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since then, the Public Education Department (PED) has released guidelines for all districts and schools to follow as they develop site-specific plans for the new school year. That process began this week when school-site leadership teams began developing school building procedures to align with the district reentry plan. This is not easy work as many safety considerations must be thought-out to ensure students academic and health needs are met. Above all, the safety of our students and staff is our priority.

The learning models New Mexico Schools will follow are: 1. fully remote, 2. hybrid, and 3. full entry. Hatch Valley Public Schools will also offer a fourth choice; 4. On-line Distant Learning for parents who choose to keep their child home this school year. I encourage all parents to become familiar with the District Reentry Plan as well as their child's school-site plan. Each learning model is explained in detail along with operational safety procedures that will be followed. HVPS is in the process of purchasing new safety equipment including face masks and face shields, touchless body temperature monitors, cleaning and disinfecting units, hand sanitizer and wipes.

School is scheduled to start on August 13 for all HVPS students. You will find a copy of the approved 2020-2021 school calendar on the district website. The same calendar will be followed regardless of the learning model being implemented at any given time this school year. New to this year's calendar is the inclusion of Extended Learning Time during the first two weeks of June. This is a result of HB1 passed during the recent special legislative session. The bill calls for ten additional days to the calendar to address student learning loss that may have occurred during the months of March, April and May of this year. Our goal is to offer enrichment learning opportunities for students, if parents choose to send their child to participate in the program. More information on Extended Learning Time will come later in the school year.

In closing, I want to reassure parents, students, staff and our Hatch Valley community that our district and school leadership teams along with our school board are working hard to ensure our students are safe at school while receiving a quality education. At this time, there is still some uncertainty, however, we hope to have clearer picture from the State in the upcoming weeks. Please look for updates as move closer to the start of the school year.

Sincerely,

Michael Chavez
Superintendent, Hatch Valley Public Schools