

September 15, 2020

Dear Hornet Family,

This year is like no other in our district's long history. For the first time, we are providing learning, support, and opportunities in several hundred different locations each day. Never before have we offered a choice for families to have their children learn at home or in a school building. We have been able to reopen our doors by taking the appropriate precautions to keep our students and staff as safe as possible. Although we admit there are things we need to continue to improve upon, I'm beyond proud of how well our students and staff continue to adapt to these changes.

This letter's intent is to provide our families with an update on three important items:

1.) Learning Logs: Initially, all Kansas school districts were required to have families and students to log their activities and minutes on days when students were not physically in school. As of yesterday, the Kansas State Department of Education allowed districts the option to continue with logs or have the superintendent and families sign a letter of assurance. We have chosen the assurance letter option, thereby abandoning the learning logs .

We are requesting that every family fill out the assurance document which will allow us to provide remote learning opportunities when:

- * students/parents/guardians have elected for at-home learning;
- * we have a snow day and transition that day to a day of remote learning;
- * remote learning days are scheduled;
- * your child/their class/or school is required to temporarily move to remote learning due to quarantine.

The document is easy to fill out (one per household) and can be completed immediately by clicking [HERE](#).

2.) Learning Modes: Yesterday evening, the district's gating taskforce met and reviewed the current USD 262 COVID dashboard data (which you can find on our website or [here](#)). The task force is comprised of parents, school leaders, teachers, and medical personnel. The current trend data is heading the right direction and it appears the rate of transmission is decreasing in our area. However, the task force recommended we proceed cautiously. Learning modes only impact those families who have selected "in-person / in school" learning. The plan from September 21 through October 9 is to move students **K-5 into daily in-person learning**. Because students change classes frequently, cohort groups and social distancing is much more difficult for middle and high school students in **grades 6-12, therefore, we will continue in the current hybrid model**. We hope that the trends continue in the right direction, and all students who wish to attend in person be allowed to do so soon.

Dr. Cory L. Gibson

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3.) Free Meals for All Youth: Recently, the USDA allowed the free meal program from this past summer to extend through December or until the funding runs out. Therefore, **the district will provide free meals to all students as well as children in the community aged 1-18.** Regular meals have been provided at no cost since school began. Please note this program is not permanent, and it is difficult to determine how long the funds will last.

Fee Adjustments: Because the free meal program will not last indefinitely, and because it only takes care of meals, it is important to submit applications for the federal meal program. The application has to be completed each year. Those who qualify also receive free or reduced enrollment fees, participation fees, as well as consideration for other items. The final day we can adjust fees is September 18, so please submit the applications before then. Information related to the free/reduced lunch application can be found [HERE](#).

Meal Distribution for hybrid and remote learners: The district is in the process of securing a waiver that will allow meal pick up without students present. However, an accountability system must be in place to ensure there are no duplicate meals being distributed. We will utilize student IDs or will provide an ID that specifies if the student is on Team A, Team B, or fully remote, as well as the number of students in the household. We anticipate this system being in place within the next few weeks. Until then, we will provide meals even when no students are present at the distribution time. These Grab-N-Go meals must be pre-ordered. You can do so by visiting our website or clicking [HERE](#).

Thank you for being a partner in the educational journey.

Respectfully,



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