

Parents/Guardians,

The Board of Trustees last night approved [the plan for the reopening of D91's schools](#) this fall. With the steady increase of COVID-19 cases in Bonneville County, it is difficult to predict where we will be in August. **Our hope is to start the school year in the Green Phase with in-person classes, but that will largely depend on the risk level in Bonneville County at that time as determined by Eastern Idaho Public Health's COVID-19 Regional Response Plan.**

D91 staff will continue the herculean task of preparing for the 2020-21 school year in close collaboration with local health officials. I will share more information as it becomes available, but in the meantime, here are some updates:

- **Putting The Plan Into Action:** Now that principals have the plan, including the framework for the hybrid schedule, they will work to implement the district directives in each building. Those plans will provide the detail some parents have requested regarding how schools will create cohorts, stagger/change lunch or passing schedules, integrate social distancing, etc.
- **New Attendance Policy:** One of the most important things we can do to minimize the spread of the virus is to make sure sick students stay home. The Board of Trustees last night updated D91's attendance policy so there are now only three kinds of absences – Verified, Unverified, and Activity. There will be no loss of credit due to absences.
- **Cleaning & Disinfecting:** We have been reviewing the latest cleaning and disinfecting protocols and purchasing the supplies and equipment needed to properly disinfect our buildings. The district is also buying face masks for staff.
- **Grade Appeals For High School Students:** High school students, and middle school students taking high school credit classes, can now appeal to have Pass/P grades changed to letter grades for third trimester classes completed during the spring 2020 school closure. Appeals must be submitted using the official appeals form, which is posted on the district website. Appeals can be submitted over the summer but they won't be reviewed until school staff return in the fall. The deadline for appeals is Jan 8, 2021.
- **Online Options:** We are developing online options for families who are not comfortable sending their children back to school this fall. We hope to share more information about those options in the coming weeks.
- **Ready For Remote:** Some of the things we are doing to ensure we can adapt to changing conditions during the school year include: all students will be issued a Chromebook or a laptop at the beginning of the school year; teachers will be encouraged to start the new year using a learning management system; and we'll develop shared expectations for lesson design so there is more consistency in remote learning across the district.

Thank you to all the parents and staff who have provided feedback on our reopening plans. Opening schools and keeping them open is going to take a community effort. I encourage all parents, patrons and staff to do what they can to help stem the spread of the virus. Please follow the guidance from Eastern Idaho Public Health and practice preventive measures such as washing your hands, wearing a face mask in public and maintaining social distancing.

Take care,
George Boland
Superintendent