



SOUTH WESTERN SCHOOL DISTRICT

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August 19, 2021

Good Afternoon Mustang Families and Staff:

I hope you are all enjoying the remainder of a summer that has been filled with wonderful memories that will last a lifetime! We are so excited to welcome our students' return to a new school year. All of our buildings have been active with teachers, staff and families coming in for orientations and visiting their rooms. You can feel the energy!

The first day of school for our students will be on **Tuesday, August 24, 2021**. It is my hope you have had the chance to visit your building, received information from your school about the start of the year and have information regarding your assigned bus stop. If you are in need of any information, please contact the building office of the school where your student attends as soon as possible. We want to make sure you have all the information you need.

As we open the year we are continuing to deal with the challenges of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. I am optimistic the disruptions we have faced over the last two school years will be limited, but I do acknowledge the possibilities of additional challenges do exist. Regardless of any disruption that may occur, and we will be working hard to limit them, our staff is committed to creating a successful year. I would also encourage our families to visit our district website to review our Health and Safety Plan at your convenience. We have placed a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) regarding some of the more commonly asked questions regarding the ongoing pandemic and our schools on the main page of our District Website for your review.

Some highlights of our Health and Safety Plan include face coverings being optional for all students, staff and visitors. We will also be continuing with increased cleaning protocols for the buildings, social distancing as practicable, extended operation of the building HVAC systems, monitoring levels of fresh air in the classrooms, and hand sanitizer being available in classrooms and designated areas of each building. I am optimistic the levels of mitigation we have in place will limit disruptions for the upcoming school year. However, we are asking our families, as we have in the past, to have a backup plan for their students should the district need to transition a building to temporary remote learning.

In closing, I want to wish all of our families a relaxing weekend as we approach the start of school on Tuesday. The classrooms are ready, the buildings are clean, the busses are filled with fuel and the anticipation of our Mustangs returning has never been greater. On behalf of our entire administrative team, we are grateful for your support of our students and staff and your commitment to our district.

Sincerely,

Jay H. Burkhart

Jay H. Burkhart, D.Ed.
Superintendent of Schools

"A Tradition of Excellence"