August 10, 2021

Dear UPSD Parents and Guardians:

We are very excited to invite all students back for full-time, in-person learning this year. The first day of school is right around the corner on August 31st. Information on start times, bus schedules, supply lists, building safety procedures, back-to-school activities and more will be sent to parents soon. Some information is available on our website, as well.

We are very confident that schools can open and operate safely this year- even with COVID19 still present in our community. We know more today about how the virus spreads than ever before and we now have vaccines and safety protocols to keep everyone safe. Last spring, we were able to bring students back to school for in-person learning safely thanks to the strong and effective preventative measures that were in place. This year, we are prepared to open schools for all students with extensive knowledge about COVID, effective procedures and all necessary safety supplies. If we work together and follow the guidelines set by local and state health officials I know we will have a safe and successful year.

As we approach August 31st, it is important for all parents to know the following:

Face coverings (masks) are required for all students, staff and visitors inside school buildings and on school buses. When outdoors, masks are not required. Students should bring their own face coverings to school. We will provide masks for those who don’t bring one. This is a legal requirement- not a district decision.

Vaccinations for adults and students 12 years and older are strongly encouraged, but not required to attend school. Other vaccinations (MMR, Tdap, etc.) are still required. We also ask that parents share their student’s COVID19 vaccination status with us in the Family Access system for our records.

Students who are sick must stay home. This is very important. If kids come to school with symptoms, they will be moved to a supervised isolation room and sent home. Also, students with COVID19 symptoms should be tested. We can help connect families to testing when needed.

Other prevention measures will remain in place to protect against COVID19 transmission including enhanced ventilation, hand hygiene, physical distancing and cleaning/disinfecting.

We are still waiting for additional guidance about sports, music, PE and extracurricular activities and will update parents when we know more. Safety procedures for each school site will also be shared with kids and parents as we get closer to the start of school.

Please feel free to reach out to me directly with questions or concerns or contact your child’s school. We are very thankful for our wonderful families and look forward to a great year of learning with students in 2021/22.

Kind regards,

Jeff Chamberlin
Superintendent