



July 21, 2020

Dear Prairie Families,

First and foremost, thank you for your continued patience and understanding during this unprecedented time for our students and families. I want to take this opportunity to thank those who responded to our Return to Learn Survey. The response was amazing! We received 2,262 responses representing 4,058 students with equal participation across buildings. [Click here](#) for a summary of the parent survey results.

As many of you know, Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds called for all school districts to submit a "Return To Learn" plan by July 1 outlining how they will address learning during the pandemic. Over the last few months the district has been working hard to prepare and develop a Return to Learn Plan for the 2020-2021 school year. The plan is a result of months of preparation which includes feedback from our parents and staff.

Our Return to Learn Plan is based on the principle of flexibility. This plan is a fluid, guiding document that will continue to evolve and change based on needs for health and safety. To review the plan, click [2020-2021 Return to Learn Plan](#). The plan is also posted on our COVID-19 Updates Page. The plan includes three models; Onsite Learning (at school) including a Temporary Virtual Learning Option, Online learning (at home) and Hybrid Learning (at school and at home).

We welcome your questions and feedback regarding our Return to Learn Plan. After reviewing our Return to Learn Plan, please complete the [Return to Learn Plan Follow up Survey](#). We are looking for all children to be represented in this survey to get the most accurate information we can. For children who reside in multiple households, we are asking for one parent/guardian to fill out the survey for the child/children impacted one time. This survey will need to be completed by Monday, July 27. The district will be using this survey to identify areas in the plan that need more clarity and to develop a Frequently Asked Questions document to accompany the plan.

A form to sign-up for the Temporary Virtual Learning Option will be shared on Thursday, July 23. The sign up window for the Temporary Virtual Learning Option will be from 7/23/20-8/5/20.

A final decision on which model we will use to start the school year will be announced on August 7. The first day of school is August 24 for all delivery models. Our goal is to restore in-person learning to the greatest extent possible but the selected model will be based on public health requirements along with parent and staff input.

If parents do not sign up the Temporary Virtual Learning Option by 8/5/20, their children will be automatically served in the model identified by the school district on 8/7/20.

We appreciate your ongoing support and patience and hope for a productive, healthy and safe start to the year.

In Service,

Doug Wheeler, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools