



Prairie Families,

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year. I hope this message finds you and your family safe, happy and ready for another school year. While we return to a school year that is far from “normal,” we are strong in our resolve to serve the health, safety and educational needs of your child (children).

We are excited to share our new We Are Prairie 21-22 Video. Click [WE ARE PRAIRIE](#)

We are prepared to welcome students back on the 23rd of August. For some students, this will be their first time in school for over a year. Our staff is working hard to create a welcoming environment where all students feel a strong sense of belonging and pride in Prairie. The pandemic strengthened our resolve to create a personalized learning environment responsive to student needs.

While we hoped COVID-19 would be firmly behind us, the persistence of this pandemic will continue to impact our school operations. Again, this year, we will have to make quick decisions based on conditions and ask for your patience and flexibility as we respond to this virus.

Please see our updated Return to Learn Plan: [Click Here](#)

Please note: Each Iowa School District is required to update their return to learn plan for this fall. Our default service model will be all students, fully onsite. **We will be starting school Monday, August 23 with all students, fully onsite and will continue with the onsite model.** The Hybrid and Online Options were included in the plan to describe these strategies as contingency plans only as required in updated Return to Learn plans.

When making difficult decisions related to COVID-19, we will continue to communicate in a manner that is clear and actionable. We will only communicate when necessary outside of regular school updates.

It is important to note the following mitigation strategy:

The [CDC issued an Order](#) effective February 1, 2021, imposing a mask requirement on public transportation. The mask requirement DOES include school buses. The Iowa Department of Public Health clarified how this federal order impacts the masking restrictions for schools in HF 847 ([IDPH Clarification](#)). Therefore, masks will be required on school busses to/from school and activities until further notice. Disposable masks will be available on each bus, but we are asking families to provide masks for their students if they are able and encourage use on the bus.

More information on the rationale for the decision related to masking on busses is found in this update.

Again, welcome to the 2021-2022 school year, our staff looks forward to partnering for the success of your student(s).

In Service,

Doug Wheeler, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools