

May 21, 2021

Highland CUSD No. 5 Parents and Staff,

We have accomplished the impossible! Congratulations to all of our students, staff, parents, and community on a fantastic year. We didn't know in the beginning if we could make it through two days or two weeks, but I am pretty sure none of us thought we would survive the entire year in person. We learned many things about perseverance along the way and learned many things about each other as well. I learned that support and encouragement can help achieve the unthinkable. Let's hope that the summer goes well and next school year is normal by all measures, not just by COVID standards.

We had a wonderful end of the school year, culminating with a fantastic graduation ceremony last Friday night. The weather was perfect as was the atmosphere. A huge thank you to all the persons involved in every aspect of the evening from technical to physical setup. Many requests for next year's ceremony have already been made, but for now we are going to step back and enjoy this year's accomplishments😊

The future of the weekly updates may be a little less regular, but my intention is to send updates as necessary when we have important announcements and/or to communicate progress towards next year's plans. I did not request a final weekly recap of the COVID numbers from each of our buildings this week, but I plan to put an annual summary together in the coming weeks.

I do want to take a moment to address one issue. Our district has respected the rights of staff and family to make decisions regarding the COVID vaccine throughout the school year. Our health department recently requested that all districts host a vaccine clinic in the month of June to bring light to the fact that vaccines are available for all individuals 12 years and up. I resisted initially out of fear that our families would feel the district was encouraging the vaccine. After talking with some parents who are interested in getting the vaccine for their children, we have decided to host a vaccine clinic from the Madison County Health Department on June 9th from 3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The clinic will be held at the Highland Primary School in the cafeteria. It should be convenient in and out. If you wish to make an appointment or access the flyer, please use the following link: <https://5il.co/syt7>
Appointments are encouraged, but walk-ins are accepted. No personnel from Highland CUSD No. 5 are involved in the clinic and please contact the Madison County Health Department with any questions regarding this clinic.

We anticipate online registration will be available on July 1, 2021. Information regarding registration will be provided as we approach that date. I hope that everyone has an opportunity to enjoy some relaxation and great weather over the summer. We will stay in touch as things start to ratchet up for Summer and Fall activities. Have a safe and healthy summer!

Sincerely,

Michael S. Sutton, Superintendent