



EAST PALESTINE CITY SCHOOLS

200 WEST NORTH AVENUE EAST PALESTINE, OHIO 44413
Mr. Chris Neifer, Superintendent (PHONE) 330 426-4191

August 3, 2021

Good evening East Palestine families, this is Mr. Neifer, EPCSD Superintendent.

I wanted to reach out and share some information regarding the beginning of the new school year.

- First, the plan for how we will handle the beginning of the school year was passed at last night's board of education meeting. A summary page and FAQ document can be found on the district website. Please understand that these plans are subject to change as we are still awaiting guidance from the state and local health departments. Here are a few highlights:
 - Masks will be mandatory on all public transportation, including school busses/vans. This is a federal mandate that we are required to follow
 - Masks will be optional for students in school. We will provide an environment that encompasses the ability for parents and students to make the educated decision of whether or not they will wear a mask in the school buildings.
 - We will continue with many of the mitigation strategies that we found effective last school year such as hand sanitizer and wipes in all classrooms, water bottle filling stations, heightened cleaning protocols, and social distancing as appropriate.
 - It will be important again this year that students and staff monitor their health on a daily basis and stay home when they are exhibiting any symptoms related to COVID 19.
 - We will continue to monitor the guidance from the CDC, health departments, and our medical partners - Akron Children's Hospital.
 - Remote learning for students will only be available for those that qualify due to an individual or household health issue. This is due to changes in legislation that control what we are allowed to offer as a school district. Online applications can be found on the district website. These applications need to be submitted to a student's building as soon as possible. The final deadline for submission will be Friday, August 13, 2021.
- Second, I want to invite everyone to join us on Saturday August 21 for a "Back to School Bash" sponsored by EPCSD and the EP chamber of Commerce. Events will take place downtown from 10am-12pm, and on the EP school campus from 2-6pm. More details can be found on the city and school district websites in the coming weeks.

Bulldog PRIDE

We did a great job last year of navigating this pandemic and I am confident that if we continue to work together this will be another great year in East Palestine City Schools

Enjoy the remainder of your summer break, and as always GO BULLDOGS!!!

Bulldog PRIDE