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August 24, 2021

Dear Maple Run Community –

As I was driving into school, I thought about how truly fortunate I am to be working in the Maple Run Community. Over the past week, I witnessed countless staff and students returning to school excited to be together and looking forward to the opening day of school. A great example was BFA and NCTC open house this past Thursday night; all the interactions, either within a classroom or just walking down the hall, were positive, and people were excited to be together again. To a person, I witness the true joy of being together again, even if we still had to wear masks. I ask all of us to remember this joy throughout the school year and bring this positive energy to everything we do.

Also, I was reflecting on last year, how we started the year, and thought, we have come a long way since then and know a great deal more about how to live with the COVID-19 pandemic. This year we are starting with:

- Five days a week of in-school instruction for all students
- The fall co-curricular activities have started and have a full slate of activities.
- We are reestablishing our routines, traditions, and customs in our school.
- An increased focus on social-emotional learning and student engagement
- New procedures provide more supports for all students to learn.

In addition to these changes, **I require that all individuals wear masks indoors on our campuses.** I will be working with the leadership team and the school nurses to monitor the local COVID-19 conditions and the recommendations from the [Department of Health and the Agency of Education](#) for masking requirements and changes that affect this determination.

Like you and our students, I am optimistic about the upcoming school year, and I choose to believe that the Maple Run Community will continue to work together to take care of each other. As our students told us this past Friday, we are resilient! ([Link to their performance](#)) We are better off because of our collective experience over the past 18 months. Please join me in being positive and seeking to understand others as we move forward to a better place in the 2021 – 22 school year.

I wish the entire community a successful 2021-22 school year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Kimball".

Bill Kimball

