



*Mission: Create a culture of deliberate excellence with equity*

*Vision: Every Graduate will be future ready for personal success, college and career, and the global marketplace*

# Gobles Public Schools

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Dear School Community:

I am certain that everyone is enjoying this well deserved Summer Break. It is my hope that all is well as we transition to a sense of normalcy.

Numerous stakeholders have been asking questions about the 2021-2022 school year so that planning can occur. This is understandable. Normally, this communication from the District/Schools happens around the first week of August but because of the uniqueness of this next school year we are expediting our timeline to meet everyone's needs. First, let me say that we have been busy preparing for an exciting 2021-2022 school year. Below are some initial district communications. You will be receiving building communications through the mail shortly. Please look for this information.

## **Initial District Communication**

**Staffing:** I am pleased to announce that Mr. Tommie Saylor, Jr. will return as Secondary Principal and Ms. Katherine Markovich will return as Elementary Principal. Please join me in welcoming new staff members, Mrs. Cassandra Trapp, 6-12 Guidance Counselor, and Ms. Megan Shein, 6-12 Math Teacher.

**School Start Date/Times:** School will begin on August 30, 2021 with a half day. Secondary school times for August 30, 2021 will be 7:30 a.m. until 11:00 a.m., and Elementary school times will be 8:30 a.m. until noon. Regularly scheduled school day times for the Secondary school are 7:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. and for the Elementary school are 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. We understand the difficulty that continuing this staggered school day schedule causes for some families but unfortunately it is the only schedule that the district can staff as Gobles, the County, and the State are all in the midst of a bus driver shortage.

**Food Service:** All students in the district will continue to receive free breakfast and lunch. The Secondary school will be receiving and eating breakfast and lunch in the cafeteria. The Elementary will be having breakfast in the classroom while students will return to the cafeteria for lunch.

**Health and Safety Protocols:** Some local districts have announced their policies for the upcoming school year. Each district has their own timetable for this communication and we want to make sure that we are not premature with anything we are saying. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention updated its guidance on July 9, 2021 saying, "masks should be worn indoors by all individuals (age 2 and older) who are not fully vaccinated." Meanwhile guidance from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, last updated on June 25, 2021, also recommends wearing masks in schools. We are aware of what the guidelines are. They are guidelines. They are not requirements. We certainly want our

staff and students to be as safe as possible, but we also don't want to require something that is unnecessary. We have consulted with the local Van Buren/Cass Health Department. We talked about this internally. We also know that the rate of that population of aged 5-19 year old children is very, very low. Ultimately, we want to have as normal of a school year as possible. As such, for Summer School and at this moment in time, unless the district/schools are required to do otherwise by the regulatory agencies as we go forward, masking will be optional and school buses and classrooms will be scheduled similar to the 2019-2020 school year.

**School Community Stakeholder Involvement Options:** We encourage the school community to partner with the District/Schools. For the 2021-2022 school year, here are some ways to engage with us:

- Ongoing Communications: District/School Websites, Social Media, Reminder
- Gobles Parent Association: Contact [parentsclub@gobles.org](mailto:parentsclub@gobles.org)
- Gobles Foundation: Contact Mrs. Angela Dickerson at [angela.dickerson@gobles.org](mailto:angela.dickerson@gobles.org)
- \*Organizational Chart/Chain of Command (In person, Social Media, Telephone): See District Website.
- School Board Meeting Attendance: See District Website for School Board Calendar.
- \*District School Improvement Meetings
- \*Key Communicators Program
- \*Ambassador Program

\*A separate posting with more detail on these opportunities can be found on the District Website and Social Media.

**New Website/App:** The District/Schools will be transitioning to a new Apptegy website/app that will go "live" on August 20, 2021.

**New Student Information System:** The District/Schools will be transitioning to a new Power School Student Information System for the 2021-2022 school year.

**Tiger Bash:** This fun filled evening will take place from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on August 26, 2021, in the central corridor between the elementary and secondary buildings. The K-12 event for students and families will include a hot dog dinner, games with prizes, a dunk tank, music, a free book giveaway, a visit from the therapy dogs, representation from our local fire department and police, and teachers welcoming students back for the 2021-2022 school year. I would like to thank the Welcome Back Committee who planned and will implement this event, Food Service for providing the dinner, Journey Church for donating 400 bottles of water for the meals, and the Gobles Parent's Association for funding the games and prizes. This activity will be in lieu of the traditional Open House and we are looking forward to a huge community showing.

**District Improvement Plan:** The District/Schools submitted a District Improvement Plan to the Michigan Department of Education on June 30, 2021 for the 2021-2022 school year. The Organizational Focus will be to improve Climate, Culture, and Communication. The Core Strategy will be Social Emotional Learning-Relationships. Strategy Implementation Plan Activities include: Welcome Back Tiger Bash, Redesign District Website and Create Mobile App, Transition to new Student Information System, Staff 24 hour Communication Promise, Stakeholder Involvement Options, Annual and Seasonal Student Activity Calendar, Student Involvement Plan, the MTSS Teaching and Learning Model ISD Trails Program Professional Development, and Staff Customer Service Training. A pre and post survey will be utilized to measure District/Schools Progress.

Enjoy the remainder of your Summer! Go Tigers!  
Jeff Rehlander

