

# WINFIELD CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Dear Pirate Family,

As some of you may be aware of, we have adjusted our school calendar to a later starting date. Instead of starting on August 6<sup>th</sup>, students will now begin school on August 13<sup>th</sup>. Our teachers will start on Monday, August 10<sup>th</sup>. Open House at all three schools will be on Tuesday, August 11<sup>th</sup>. Times for those open houses will be made available at a later date. We will post those times on our website and all our social media platforms.

We are making preparations for a safe return to school. We are doing some simple renovations to common areas of the schools to make them safer and easier to maintain. We are creating new 'sick rooms' at each school where we can isolate students who are showing any symptoms of Covid. We have purchased infrared cameras, which will detect an elevated temperature when students enter the building. We have purchased infrared thermometers for each school and extracurricular activity so temps can be taken without contact. We have four new disinfecting machines that will clean large areas in a matter of minutes, so we can disinfect classrooms, lunchrooms, gymnasiums, bathrooms, and other common areas very safely and efficiently. We have purchased 15 hand-held cleaning machines that can disinfect buses within minutes. We are working hard to get the schools ready for re-entry in August, but we will follow the guidelines of the Alabama Dept. of Public Health, the CDC, and the Alabama State Department of Education. Dr. Mackey and the SEAL Task Force are in the process of developing guidelines for us to follow when we re-open. Those are expected to be released in the next few days. When those guidelines are released, we will have a better idea about how we are going to manage our local schools.

Within the next two weeks, Winfield City Schools will be sending out a survey for you to complete regarding returning in the fall of 2020. We ask that you take a few minutes to answer the survey questions to help us prepare for opening of school. I want to thank you for your patience and flexibility during this uncertain time in our country's history. We will do the best job that we can to make sure our schools are safe and clean for your child, but as we have all seen, plans can change daily, if not hourly. We will communicate with you as much as we can about any changes that may occur. If you have any questions, please contact your local school, or if I can be of assistance do not hesitate to contact my office.

May God Bless You,

*Chris Cook*

Chris Cook, Superintendent