



Smithton R-VI School District

505 South Myrtle, Smithton, MO 65350-1038

www.smithton.k12.mo.us Fax: 660-343-5389

David Bray
Superintendent
660-343-5316

Andrew Turner
Principal PS-6
660-343-5317

Jonathan Petersen
Principal 7-12
660-343-5318

Bryan Werner
Asst Principal
660-343-5318

Dawn McNeeley
Special Services
660-343-5318

Bryan Werner
Athletic Director
660-343-5318

June 26, 2020

Dear Smithton R-VI Parents, Staff and Community:

We hope everyone is having a safe summer and are ready for the start of another school year. This week a task force made up of staff members met in order to begin developing plans to reopen the Smithton R-VI Schools. We encourage you to look for opportunities to provide necessary input during this process. Much of the information will be gathered through surveys and we ask that you continue to watch for and respond to them when possible.

The task force has begun to develop three potential plans for the return of school in the fall. The first plan is dedicated to the full return of students and staff with safety guidelines that least compromise effective teaching strategies. The second plan is dedicated to distance learning for all staff and students with increased monitoring and continuous communication with Federal, State, and local health officials. The third plan is dedicated to a combination of distance and a full return to school, with both safety guidelines for those in attendance and increased monitoring and communication with health officials.

We appreciate your cooperation and patience as we work through this difficult time for our community. Thank you for your interest in the Smithton R-VI Schools.

Sincerely,

Smithton R-VI Administration
Reopening Task Force

June 24, 2020

Dear Smithton R-VI Parents, Staff and Community:

We hope everyone is enjoying their summer and ready for a return to school in the fall. A task force composed of staff members of Smithton R-VI is currently working on plans to determine just how that return to school will look. This task force will meet over the summer several times with the sole purpose of planning for the reopening of the Smithton R-VI Schools. Please watch for information regarding this work over the next several weeks. Regardless of how it looks we wanted to express our deep appreciation for your cooperation and patience as we work through the guidance and suggestions from Federal, State and local health experts and area school leaders to determine the most sensible plan for returning to school.

Over the next several weeks we ask that you watch for opportunities to provide us with input regarding a return to school in the fall. It will be important for us to respond to the needs of our community in whatever we do. We

anticipate a wide range of thoughts on this subject as everyone's understanding and experiences with COVID-19 over the past few months are undoubtedly different. We also acknowledge that the health risks associated with this virus are different in each home and will work to develop plans that protect the most vulnerable among us.

Our goal is to return to school in the fall and we look forward to cooperating with each child and each home to create a stronger and healthier school community. Many activities at Smithton R-VI have begun to use our facilities under specific health and safety guidelines. We acknowledge that quality health, just like a quality education, begins in the home and we ask that if your child is involved in any of these activities they remain at home when not feeling well.

Thank you for your interest in Smithton R-VI Schools and have a great day.

Sincerely,

Smithton R-VI Administrative Team

May 28, 2020

The Smithton R-VI Schools are currently exploring how reopening for the 2020-21 school year will look. Like many of us we are preparing for the unknown and reviewing information from multiple sources. Our goal is to open school on August 26 with a multitude of considerations. Over the summer months we will be developing plans that reflect the different possibilities for reopening based on our consultation with local health officials, area superintendents and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Mr. Werner will be sending information out regarding the opening of our campus to limited groups for summer workouts beginning June 15. We are excited to open our campus, but are obligated to comply with current national, state, and local guidance.

We recognize that each family has had a different experience regarding the pandemic and that each family's feelings on the pandemic reflect those differences. We as a District have appreciated the cooperation from our families as we finished the 2019-20 school year and look forward to working together to ensure continuity of our programs regardless of the conditions.

The following are some answers to potential questions we anticipate from our community:

Will the Smithton R-VI Schools follow the calendar adopted by the board in February? Yes. At this time, we have no intention to file for a waiver to begin the school year prior to August 26, 2020.

Will there be a registration day prior to the start of school? Yes. Our plan right now is to have open registration on August 4th and 5th with some possible online options to be shared over the summer.

What additional precautions will the school take regarding the current pandemic? The school will respond to all state and local health guidelines and provide additional opportunities to teach and practice self-care among students and staff of the Smithton R-VI Schools. This includes enhanced sanitation of buildings and commons areas and frequently touched surfaces.

Will families be required to transport students to school? No. We are including Apple Bus Company in our plans and they will be following all state and local health guidelines regarding the transportation of students to and from school.

Will there be changes to the food service program? The food service program will continue providing 2 meals each day to students in attendance and food service workers will follow all state and local health guidelines regarding preparation and handling of food. We encourage all families to complete the Free and Reduced Meal Application when they become available during and after registration.

Will sports and activity schedules change? Mr. Werner is working closely with the Kaysinger Conference and the Missouri State High School Activities Association and will respond to state and local health guidance, including any travel restrictions and occupancy limits. We know that there are many other questions that are difficult to answer at this time and encourage everyone to watch for updates throughout the summer from the District.

Thank you again for your cooperation, support and understanding during these difficult times.

Sincerely,

Smithton R-VI Administration

