

Community Unit School District #7

Superintendent:
Andrew J. Larson

June 30, 2020

Administration Center
1121 CR 800 N, P.O. Box 720
Tolono, IL 61880
217-485-6510 Fax 217-485-3091
www.unitsevenschools.com

Dear Unit 7 Students, Parents and Community,

I hope this message finds you and your families safe and well. The Illinois State Board of Education recently released guidance for re-opening schools in the 2020-21 school year.

This 60-page document has been much anticipated and will go a long way toward answering critical questions all of us share about what the 2020-21 school year will look like in terms of in-person learning, scheduling, transportation, wearing masks, social distancing and other measures intended to keep everyone safe and healthy, while also re-engaging students in person in the learning process.

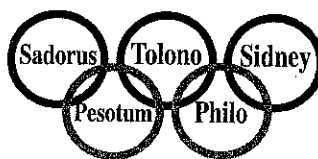
Right now, we do not have all the answers to those questions as this document was released last week to school districts at the same time it was released to the public. Therefore, I ask for your patience as our staff thoroughly reviews this detailed guidance and implements the suggestions into our district's own transition plan.

Unit 7 is aware of the urgency felt by families to hear communication about what to expect for opening of the 2020-21 school year. I anticipate releasing our own transition plan by mid to late July. I believe there will be continued changes in guidance regarding the opening of schools between now and the start of school.

I am confident a district plan that prioritizes the health and safety of our students while maintaining an engaging learning environment can be achieved while following the state mandated guidelines.

Please be looking for information over the next month that will provide families with direction regarding the reopening of schools within our district boundaries. Decisions that are made at the district level view scientific research as qualified knowledge as to how we should proceed with reopening schools. I recognize that concerns for how schools reopen have become exacerbated due to the wealth of information and misinformation in the public marketplace of websites and social media. I want to assure you that I will be making decisions solely with the best interest of the Unit 7 students, faculty, staff and community. One point of clarification, I am repeatedly hearing concerns about required facemasks for students and staff. Illinois Department of Public Health has made face masks a requirement. This is a nonnegotiable requirement for reopening public schools in Illinois at this time.

Better Schools



Better Citizens

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Thank you again for your patience, understanding, and flexibility as we continue to navigate a pandemic together that none of us could have imagined.

In the meantime, stay safe and enjoy your summer.

Sincerely,



Andrew Larson, Superintendent

