

July 2, 2020

Dear Fayetteville Public Schools Families,

I know you have questions regarding the reopening of school. Thank you for the time you have taken to share your questions and concerns. While we don't have all the answers right now, we want to provide you with as much clarity and the answers that are available at this time. This is a new experience for all of us, and no one can predict what is to come. We know that our school year will not be what we are used to - many of the events, activities and procedures of the normal school year may no longer be feasible. But, there is one thing that I am sure of - we are stronger when we are working together. Together, we will move forward into the 2020-21 school year ready to provide the best for the students of Fayetteville.

We are pleased to share additional information regarding the district's plan to return to school in August. I am happy to inform you that **the deadline has been extended** for the Learning Options Parent Survey. [The survey](#) will now close at **5:00 p.m. on July 19, 2020**. *If you have previously completed the survey and wish to change your selection, you may complete the survey again. The district will use your most recent response.*

The additional time to complete the survey will allow you to review more detailed information about the learning options available to all FPS families. As stated in our previous communication, Fayetteville Public Schools reopening plans offer options for traditional/blended learning or virtual learning. Additionally, our teachers, administrators, and staff members are working to develop the flexibility to transition all students to virtual instruction should the Governor of Arkansas, acting on the advice of the Arkansas Department of Health, require this change.

In the questions that we have received, two questions have risen to the forefront: *Are face-coverings or masks required? What will learning look like?* Please see below for answers to those questions and a link to a chart defining the options for learning for 2020-2021. In addition to the information contained in this communication, we will continually update the district website to answer your additional questions and feature the latest information for students and staff members. And we will continue to accept questions at [this link](#).

We are grateful for your trust, patience, and support as we move forward.

Sincerely,



John L. Colbert, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

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**Will all Fayetteville Public Schools students wear a face-covering or mask each day to school?**

The district is recommending for school board approval that all K through 12 students be required to wear a face-covering or mask that covers the nose and mouth while at school and on school-provided transportation. Students would be able to remove face-coverings or masks when eating or drinking. Students may be able to remove face-coverings or masks when social distancing measures are in

place as determined by the teacher. There also may be necessary health exceptions to this requirement. This requirement may change as Arkansas Department of Health and CDC guidance are provided in the future. This proposed policy will be considered by the school board at a special meeting this afternoon.

### **Will all Fayetteville Public Schools teachers and staff members wear a face-covering or mask each day to school?**

The district is recommending for school board approval that all FPS staff members and teachers be required to wear a face-covering or mask that covers the nose and mouth while at school. Teachers and staff members would be allowed to remove face-coverings or masks when eating or drinking. Teachers and staff may be able to remove face-coverings or masks when social distancing measures are in place. There may be accommodations (such as clear face shields) made for teachers and staff members whose lips and face must be seen for therapy or other instructional purposes. This proposed policy will be considered by the school board at a special meeting this afternoon.

### **What will learning at FPS look like for 2020-2021?**

Three learning options are available for families. Please visit the **Options for Learning Chart** at [this link](#) to learn more.

*Families choosing Option 1: Traditional/Blended Learning should consider the strict requirements that will be in place to keep students, families, and staff members safe as they make this selection, and keep in mind that a transition to virtual learning is possible at any time.*

*Families should note - on the [Parent Survey](#), if you previously selected the **Virtual Learning Option** you have selected **Option 2: K-12 Home Campus Virtual Learning**. If you wish to change your selection, you may complete the survey again. The district will use your most recent response. To enroll in Fayetteville Virtual Academy (Option 3), families would need to complete an application and should consider FVA a long-term placement.*

**MORE INFORMATION ON ALL OPTIONS IS AVAILABLE ON THE [OPTIONS FOR LEARNING CHART AT THIS LINK](#).**