



**Update #9 – July 20, 2020**

**Santa Fe R-X Community:**

I do hope that this communication finds all doing well! Though there are many, many questions about the future, I thought I would share some updates with everyone as we continue to prepare for a return this fall. These are my 'gut' feelings at this point in time; please understand that all of these thoughts are subject to change:

**Summer Academic Recovery-**

The district will be holding a session to reinforce paramount concepts in Math and English Language Arts from August 3-14, prior to the start of the 2020-21 academic school year. Sessions will be held from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 for grades K-8. Breakfast will be served and busing will be available. For high school students grades 9-12, ACT prep' sessions will be made available in the evenings.

**Fall Return-**

As I stated in the last update (#8), I fully support a full face-to-face return for school this fall. I certainly understand that opinions around this vary greatly, as everyone's realities and risk tolerances vary, but for the purpose of education, distance learning is not the best answer for our students. It is a distant second.

*If your child would require distance learning (virtual/packets) instruction in the fall for health/safety reasons, please contact school offices at 660-674-2236 (SFHS)/660-493-2811 (SFE)/660-674-2238 (Central Office).*

**Quarantine-**

Should a student be quarantined by the local health department, administration and staff will work with the student and family to develop an appropriate academic plan that will best benefit the child. We will not take a 'one size fits all' approach.

**Extra-Curricular Activities-**

At this time, the MO State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) still has plans to move forward with fall activities. With this knowledge, the Santa Fe School District implemented a phased approach to summer workouts. Phase 1 ran from June 22<sup>nd</sup> to July 3<sup>rd</sup> with outdoor, no contact fitness workouts. As of July 6<sup>th</sup>, we have moved to Phase 2, which includes indoor workouts and specific weight training. Phase 3 will include full contact and sharing of equipment.



**Transportation-**

Transportation will still be provided for the upcoming school year. If possible, we ask that you make every effort to transport your child(ren) to and from school. This will enable us to keep a safer environment on our buses and prevent a heightened chance of exposure to those that must rely on district transportation.

**SFE Open House/SFHS Registration-**

SFE Open House/Registration: Will be held August 11<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

SFHS Registration: August 11<sup>th</sup> 2:00-7:00 & August 12<sup>th</sup> from 12:00-6:00 for returning students

August 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> for new students (please call the high school prior 660-674-2236)

**SANITATION/SAFETY PRECAUTIONS-**

- Fogging machines have been purchased to sanitize our buildings daily
- Portable foggers will be used to sanitize buses daily
- Masks will be available for all students/staff/guests (masks will not be required, but will be recommended/encouraged, especially when distancing is not possible)
- Desks will be sanitized between classes
- Students will be intentionally spaced and asked to sit in the same seat daily (for tracking purposes, if necessary)
- Modifications have been made to breakfast/lunch shifts, as well as other times of the school day when kids would typically gather in groups
- Pursuing anti-microbial air purifiers to install with our air handlers in both facilities

In closing, I want to assure all that the district is taking every reasonable step to ensure the safety of our students and staff. As with every school year, while there is certainly still the possibility of exposure to disease, this potential harm must be weighed with that of being isolated at home for months on end with limited social interactions, academic progression and no exposure to the fine arts or extra-curricular activities. I do not make this decision lightly, but feel it is what is best for our students and community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Derek Lark". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

**Derek Lark  
Superintendent  
Santa Fe R-X School District**