



Dr. Lindsey Hall, Superintendent
Mahomet-Seymour Schools

1301 S. Bulldog Drive
Mahomet, IL 61853
Ofc.217-586-4995 Fax 217-586-5834

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Hello Bulldog Families

I hope this email finds you all doing well and enjoying summer time.

Back on May 21, 2020, I sent out a video message to parents about reopening school for the 20-21 school year. This email included information about forming the Reopening Task Force, a group of employees who would be working together on plans to reopen school, based on guidance from the Illinois State Board of Education (which, at that time, we did not have.) In that same message, I also stated that “I sincerely hope to have a reopening plan to parents by June 30.” Obviously this email is past that deadline--I wish we had a finalized plan to share right now, but we don’t. We are working hard to get closer to a finalized plan, but it will still be a few more weeks before we know exactly what the plan for reopening is.

Much time, research and hard work has gone into the tasks associated with reopening schools for the 20-21 school year. The dedication of our employees is not surprising--and it is very impressive. Even more importantly is their consideration and focus on the needs of our students to be in school, the overall health of our students and staff, and how we can teach and engage with all students as we come back together for school. The Reopening Task Force and its associated subcommittees have met multiple times and I have provided updates to the Board of Education on June 8 and June 22.

On June 23, we received Reopening Guidance from the Illinois State Board of Education. It has been revised and clarified multiple times in the past week, and we can expect changes and updates like that to continue to happen. I cannot say “thank you!” enough times to all of our families for your patience, support and flexibility since mid-March when we first began the COVID-19 journey. As we start the next leg of this unusual trip, we will all need to remain patient and flexible, as plans are likely to change as we approach the beginning of the school year, and after we start school.

On Monday, July 6, 2020, our Board of Education will devote a special meeting to the discussion of reopening plans. Later today, the board packet will go out and you’ll be able to read through a draft of proposed plans. These plans are not finalized and are subject to change or changes over the next few weeks.

I have talked with numerous superintendents around our state over the past few weeks. We are all working with our teams to develop plans that prioritize the health of our students and staff and maximize learning--and these plans need to fit under the umbrella of the guidance and restrictions that currently in place in our state. There is not a perfect plan or plans that are “better” than others. We utilized the feedback from our parent survey (thank you for responding!), teacher expertise, ISBE guidance and we also looked at plans from other school districts and states to formulate our proposed reopening plan.

“Committed to Excellence”

In closing, how we approach the opening of our schools in August is determined by the plan, but it's also determined by our attitude and approach to our reopening plan. It's safe to say that some parts of the plan will be popular and likable, and other parts won't be. I urge us all to remember that the COVID 19 pandemic is temporary, and to focus on the positives we can find in all areas of our lives. The pandemic has been a stressful burden and has changed and altered our lives forever. However, our kids are looking to us for support, encouragement, care, love and enthusiasm. School might look different in the fall, but it's always a great day to be a Bulldog!

Be well!

Very sincerely,

Dr. Lindsey A. Hall

Superintendent of Schools