



## Superintendent's Office

July 22, 2020

Dear students, staff, families and community,

I hope you all are enjoying the beautiful summer weather that has finally arrived. I managed to get away for a week to enjoy some beach and mountain time. Now I am back at it and gearing up to make things happen for the 2020-21 school year which is a rather daunting endeavor.

Thank you for completing the spring survey for reopening school. Of course, we know people may feel differently about the learning environment they want for students at this time, so we will be seeking out more information regarding choices soon. The spring results made it clear families want options for the 2020-21 school year. Below are graphs that show those results.

Given the guidelines for in person instruction this fall, are you comfortable have your student(s) return to school this fall? (Mark only one)



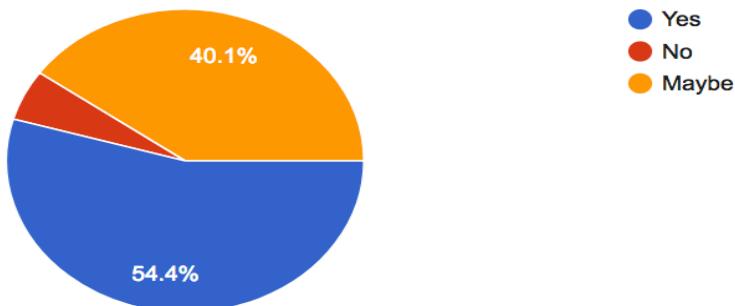
462 responses



Do you intend to send your children to school in the fall?



461 responses



If you answered no or uncertain to previous question, please indicate which educational model you most support?

236 responses



Many questions have been coming forward, so my goal with this communication is to provide an update on where our planning for the school year is at and what it looks like going forward. Please be rest assured that every decision is being made with input, data, and research to ensure to the best of our ability the safety and well-being of students, families, and staff. Since circumstances can change as we have been experiencing throughout this pandemic, it is important to understand that what I share today could change in the future. We plan to have a full-on remote learning option that will be more robust than last semester. We also plan to have at least one on-site learning option that we are still hammering out based on our capacity to do so following all health and safety guidelines. The following timeline should shed some understanding on the current status based on what we know today.

- July: All facilities have been assessed to determine capacity with safe social distancing. The Superintendent is meeting with Maintenance and Operations Directors next week to finalize capacity for each space we have available. Equipment and PPE has been ordered to ensure safety and allow us to efficiently clean and disinfect buildings and buses
- July 22: Robocall/email to families from the Superintendent (5:45 p.m.) to include Internet Access Survey
- July 28 & 29: Superintendent attends state and regional meetings
- July 29: Robocall/email to families from the Superintendent (5:45 p.m.)
- August 5: The reopening committee reconvenes to establish options based on data and needs. Detailed planning will continue to meet learning, safety, and health guidelines for students and staff.
- August 6: Robocall/email to families from the Superintendent (5:45 p.m.)
- August 10-7:00 p.m.: Webinar for the community to explain options and announce a request for all families to complete a survey based on options explained during the webinar. The link to the webinar will be on the website August 10<sup>th</sup>.
- August 11 – 14: Collect data from surveys and begin placements
- August 12: Robocall/email to families from the Superintendent (5:45 p.m.)
- August 17: Individual schools begin to communicate placements and beginning of the school year information with families

- August 18: Reopening plan and resolution goes to the School Board for approval
- August 19: Robocall/email to families from the Superintendent (5:45 p.m.)
- August 19-28: Preparation for the school year and continued school-based and district-wide communication with families and staff

Regardless of the mode of learning a student engages in this year, we will have Chromebooks available for check out for each student. I am working with the “Connect Whatcom” task force to increase accessibility to the internet throughout Whatcom County. Please complete this brief survey <https://forms.gle/wYjEMsJwwrwuX4s5A> to help me identify areas that need hot spots and to determine how many families might need financial help to access service.

Today information from the WIAA regarding high school sports in Washington was released. While it is disappointing to not have our regular seasons, there are still activities we can participate in now including the continuation of our training program. There are still opportunities to play sports but much of this depends on people making good decisions about mitigating factors that spread the COVID-19 virus. While we plan to have junior high sports, we do not have any information yet. The high school sports schedule with tentative dates that are subject to change is as follows:

WIAA Season 1 (9/7-11/19): Cross Country

WIAA Season 2 (1/4-3/7): Basketball & Wrestling

WIAA Season 3 (3/8-5/2): Volleyball, Girls Soccer, Football

WIAA Season 4 (5/3-6/27): Fastpitch Softball, Track & Field, Baseball, Golf, Boys Soccer

**We are Baker, so let's step up and show the county and state how it is done! Wear masks, social distance, stay away from large gatherings, and wash your hands a lot.**

Next week I will be sharing information about a new platform we will be using for website and emergency communication as well as an app that will be available for free. This should make finding and receiving information much easier regardless of the device you are using. We are excited about this change!

This year promises to be challenging but I am also expecting moments of greatness because we are a great community that cares about kids and one another. Mountaineers are always up for the climb, so we will make this a year to show what it means to be Baker Strong.

Feel free to contact me at 360-617-4600 or [msewright@mtbaker.wednet.edu](mailto:msewright@mtbaker.wednet.edu).

Sincerely,

Mary Sewright, Superintendent

