



North Lyon County



USD 251

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Together We Succeed

North Lyon USD 251

Thursday, July 30, 2020

North Lyon School Community,

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your patience, your feedback, and your support of our school district as we continue the process of returning to school for 2020-2021. I know there are many questions that everyone has pertaining to many aspects of our returning back to school. We will do our very best to communicate with you as soon as answers become available. As you know, there are many pressures facing our employees and families today, and it is important that you know we stand together with you - to support learning, as well as the social-emotional and physical health of our employees and families. Our school district's board approved "Together We Succeed 2020-2021 Return to School Plan" will provide you with many details about the plan to reopen our schools. Between now and the first day of school, each Building Leadership Team will be developing procedures in their buildings to implement this plan.

Many people, including teachers, classified staff, parents, board members, administration, and local health officials have worked very hard to ensure a safe environment with student and parent options for the continuation of a great education at North Lyon County. I'm very proud of the school team that met throughout the summer to plan a framework for student learning and the Reopening Committee for their dedication in July after KSDE released the "Navigating Change" guidance document. I was impressed by the teamwork of our staff and parents to provide recommendations to the USD 251 Board of Education pertaining to the student learning environment and the safety and health of students and staff. Also, I want to thank all of our parents that took the time to complete the two reopening surveys over the past two weeks. Below are a few items of communication that will help you begin to plan for the reopening of school.

- **Delayed Start of School:** The Board of Education has approved to delay the beginning of the school year from August 20th to **August 27th**. This change will allow our teachers and staff additional time to get ready for the return of students. The new calendar is designed to meet the Kansas State Statute obligation of 1,116 instructional hours.
- **Enrollment:** We are currently enrolling students for the 2020-2021 school year. NLC Elementary (grades K-8) and NHHS (grades 9-12) will be enrolling students on August 3rd from 1:00 pm until 8:00 pm and August 4th from 8:00 am until 12:00 pm. For more information, please call NLC Elementary at 620-481-2086 or NHHS at 620-481-2087.

- **Textbook Fees: The North Lyon USD 251 textbook fee of \$50.00 will be waived for the 2020-2021 school year for each USD 251 student.** Our school district believes this is important to help out our school district families during this uncertain time.
- **Athletics/Activities:** We will follow the guidance of KSHSAA. There are many questions still unanswered on this topic.
- **Masks Required:** For the foreseeable future, all staff, students, and building visitors will be required to wear a face mask when they are in any district facility. Students will supply their own mask/face covering. We will have disposable masks available should someone forget to bring one. Masks are required by Executive Order 20-59 with some exceptions.

There will be more information coming your way about our USD 251 “Together We Succeed” Plan in the days/weeks to come as each school building develops specific procedures by building. We will continue to update you as information is known. I’m confident our entire school community working together will give our students the ability to SUCCEED in USD 251.

Thank you,

Robert W. Blair USD #251 Superintendent

Our “Together We Succeed Plan” is comprehensive and answers many questions. Below is a list of frequently asked questions based on the guidance in the plan. Although we have done our best to answer most questions, we are confident other questions will come up that we didn’t anticipate. If so, we will attempt to get your questions answered as quickly as possible.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

If I have chosen the In-Person instructional option for my child, will they ever be in hybrid instruction or remote instruction?

For those who have chosen the In-Person option, our desire and goal is for students to be instructed on site and in-person as much as possible. In the event that it becomes unsafe to have all students on site, we would move to the hybrid instructional model where students are instructed on site every other day and remotely at home every other day. If it is unsafe to have any students at school, we would move to the remote instructional model where all students are instructed remotely at home.

If I have chosen the Online instructional option for my child, what does this look like?

For those who have chosen the Online option, the instructor will be a USD 251 teacher using a blended instructional approach consisting of Edgenuity online assignments, direct teacher instruction, offline assignments, and project-based learning. KSDE is requiring online students to work a minimum of 6 hours per day or 30 hours per week. The school is required to have parents sign the weekly learning log we will provide and turn each student’s log into the school each week.

After I have chosen one of the two learning options for my child, can I switch my child to the other option?

Yes. However, the transition from one learning option to another will only be allowed at the end of each nine-week grading period.

Should I check my child’s temperature and screen any health symptoms at home prior to sending them to school each day?

Yes. Never send your child to school with a fever at or above 100.4.

Will the school check my child's temperature at school?

All students will have their temperatures checked before entering their school building each day. Bus riders will have their temperatures checked prior to boarding their bus in the mornings. The bus riders will not have their temperatures checked a second time to enter the building. Parents will be notified immediately if their child has a fever at or above 100.4 or unexplainable COVID-19 symptoms. Parents will be expected to pick ill students up in a timely manner.

Will students be social distancing?

Yes. Our schools will be distancing students at least 3-6 feet apart in the classrooms.

Are students required to wear masks?

Executive Order 20-59 mandates the wearing of masks by everyone in school buildings. The order lists 7 exceptions, including while eating or engaging in physical activity.

How do I pick my student up early from school?

Please call when you arrive and let the office know that you need your child to be checked out early. A staff member will escort your child to your car.

Will my child's class go on field trips or have guest speakers?

Not at this time. Teachers will work to provide rich experiences through virtual field trips and online guest speakers.

Can I visit the school building?

Visitors to school buildings will be limited. Parents are encouraged to call the school office to make an appointment with school personnel prior to coming to the buildings. Visits will be conducted using the phone or zoom meetings, if possible.

If my child is sick, how should I report this information to the school?

If your child is ill, please call the school office to inform them. Given the nature of the pandemic, the school may ask you additional health related questions related to COVID-19 symptoms.

Will the school be cleaning the buildings and buses more often?

Yes. Throughout the school day, additional sanitizing and cleaning will be implemented and deep cleaning will take place once per week. Between groups of students, classrooms will be cleaned by spraying down all student surfaces when a different group of students transition into the classroom. After school, all student desks and touch points will be sanitized. In addition, all buses will be sanitized prior to bus routes and after bus routes.

Will there be extracurricular activities and athletics?

Yes. On July 28th the Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA) executive board voted down a proposal, 5-4, that would have moved back the start date. KSHSAA has released COVID-19 risk mitigation considerations for each fall activity. Our school district will be developing detailed plans for extracurricular practices and competitions based on current information at the time of each event.