

Dear Parents & Guardians,

As we begin the 2020-2021 school year, we know that you are excited about the beginning of a new school year but we also realize that many may be feeling anxious about how COVID-19 impacts school. For the past several months, our leadership team, staff, and Board of Education have been working on the USD 115 Return to School Plan. Additionally, our plan reflects the health recommendations from local physicians and the Nemaha County Community Health director.

As part of this process, we surveyed our parents and guardians in July regarding preferences for returning to school. While the vast majority of the results indicated they wanted their children to return onsite with safety precautions in place, we also were cognizant that there were parents who had concerns with sending their children to the brick and mortar buildings. Therefore, we used the survey results and guidance from [state](#) and [local levels](#) to create our comprehensive [USD #115 Return to School Plan](#).

Please note [USD #115 Return to School Plan](#) is still in development as this is a constantly fluid situation. The USD 115 Board of Education will approve the plan at the August 10th meeting. If you would like to provide feedback on the plan, a link can be found at the top of the USD #115 Return to School Plan or you can also click [here](#). We would appreciate feedback prior to August 7th.

Regarding the issue of masks, our plan currently states that in most situations, masks are not required for Preschool (PS) to 5th grade students, but they are encouraged. Students in Grades 6-12 and adults are required to wear face masks. However, this issue will be addressed at the next Nemaha County Commissioners Meeting and their decision could possibly alter this section of our plan. If any changes are made to the USD 115 Return to School Plan regarding masks, these will be communicated with our patrons after the USD 115 Board of Education Meeting to be held on August 10th.

The USD 115 Return to School Plan provides a tiered approach with clear, actionable steps, but yet recognizes the importance of being fluid as this is a dynamic situation. Parents have two options for their children starting the 20-21 school year:

- Option 1: Onsite with Safety Precautions
 - See Page 6 of [USD #115 Return to School Plan](#) for the safety precaution details.
 - By following the face masks/coverings, social distancing, hand sanitizing, and temperature checks procedures, it increases the likelihood to remain in the onsite learning model and continue to be able to participate in extracurricular activities.
 - To choose this option, parents do not need to do anything further as long as you have already enrolled your child for the school year.
- Option 2: Parent Choice Remote Learning

- Parent Choice Remote Learning will be very different from the Continuous Learning Plan that occurred last spring. Parents should read the [Nemaha Central Remote Learning Handbook](#) carefully to understand the requirements for this option.
- To choose this option, parents should complete the [NC At-Home Remote Learning Sign Up for 2020-2021](#) prior to August 11th.

We realize there are many challenges as we start the new school year; however, we are confident that we have developed a comprehensive plan focusing on safety. Remember if you would like to provide feedback on the plan, a link can be found at the top of the USD #115 Return to School Plan or you can also click [here](#).

We thank you for your continued support and understanding as we work to keep students, staff, and our school community safe.

Sincerely,

Darrel Kohlman, USD #115 Superintendent