



# Smithton R-VI School District

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August 6, 2020

Dear Smithton Families,

I hope everyone has had a relaxing summer and is ready for a return to school. I regret that our situation with regards to the COVID-19 pandemic is still creating a great deal of stress for our homes and businesses. In the spring of the year we were asked to close our schools and cancel all activities. Throughout the summer we have remained closed to the public and have opened our doors to limited student activity groups in an effort to prepare for a complete reopening this fall. A plan for our reopening was developed over the summer and the Board of Education was given the opportunity to review it and provide input. We are scheduled to return to school this fall on August 26, 2020 and our goal is to start under a traditional campus learning model. However, we have come to realize that this start will be anything but traditional.

The accompanying plan includes a traditional campus learning model, a partial campus learning model, and a distance learning model each of which involves changes to accommodate the safety of our staff, students and families based on guidance from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS), the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Pettis County Health Center, the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSSA) and consultation with area school leaders. We believe that the safety measures put forth in each of these plans represent our greatest opportunity of controlling the spread of COVID-19 and preserving the integrity of our educational and extracurricular activities. I also acknowledge that opinions on many of the recommended safety measures vary and I remain very appreciative and mindful of the cooperative effort each home will have to maintain in order for our doors to remain open. Each of our plans includes the need for a home health screening for students each day and the possible requirement of face coverings for all students and staff when social distancing is not possible. Based on the current conditions in Pettis County we would require face covering for all students and staff if our doors were to open today. Face coverings, along with other measures related to social distancing, disinfecting and symptom screening will offer us the greatest opportunity to minimize the number of students who would be quarantined in the event of a positive case in our schools. It is strongly suggested that each family establishes contact with a health care provider, if possible, in order to develop a personal response plan for children in each home who may exhibit symptoms of COVID-19.

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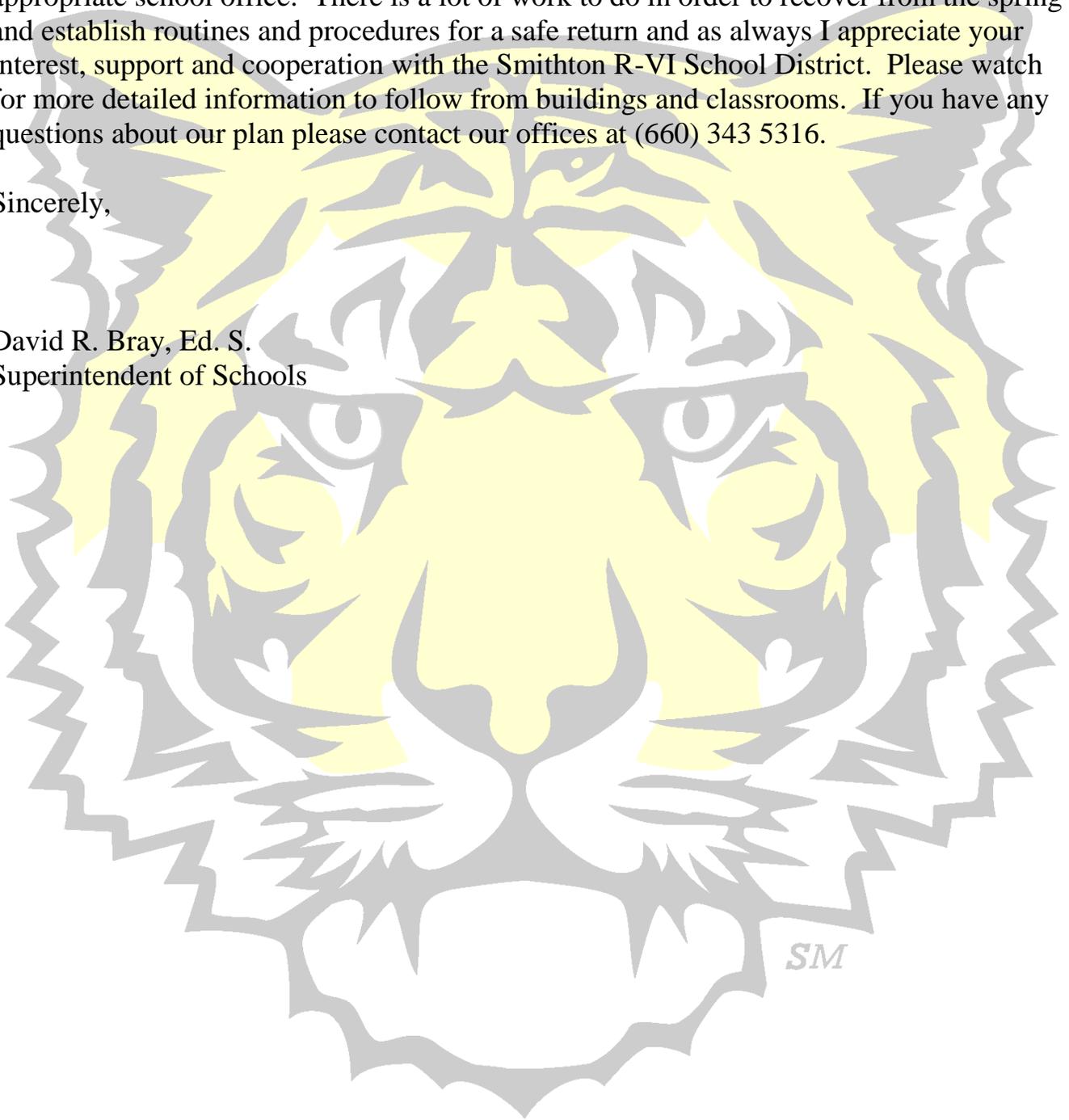


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I realize due to the inconvenience of these safety measures or health concerns within our most vulnerable households that some families will wish to have a completely virtual option for school at this time. If this is the case, please refer to the information in the plan regarding the Missouri Course Access Program (MOCAP) and contact the appropriate school office. There is a lot of work to do in order to recover from the spring and establish routines and procedures for a safe return and as always I appreciate your interest, support and cooperation with the Smithton R-VI School District. Please watch for more detailed information to follow from buildings and classrooms. If you have any questions about our plan please contact our offices at (660) 343 5316.

Sincerely,

David R. Bray, Ed. S.  
Superintendent of Schools



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