



## New Waverly ISD

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Dr. Darol Hail  
Superintendent

Sheri O'Hagan  
Secretary

Dear Bulldog families,

In many ways it is difficult to believe that we are in August. Our world has certainly changed a great deal since the last time we were able to be in a face to face setting with students. For all of us, this “new normal” has brought mixed feelings: worry, fear, anger, frustration, to name but a few. Our families, our faculty and staff, and most importantly our children have all experienced these impacts.

Perhaps the most difficult challenge has been the overwhelming mixed messages about this pandemic. We will not attempt to decide which study, news report, or politician is correct. We will simply state that we believe it's important that we understand each other. For some, this pandemic has carried very real and frightening consequences, for example the loss of someone dear to them. For others, this pandemic may have touched their family through loss of a way to make a living. Regardless, we believe it's vitally important that we do our best to not judge each other and instead work towards helping our community of students to get back into the school year with a sense of unity and respect.

To be honest, information and situations change daily. You no doubt have experienced this simply by watching the news for any length of time. As a district, we have experienced this frustration firsthand as we have made plans that matched requirements from the state, only to witness the information change and begin again. To be perfectly honest with you, it seems that the only constant we have is that whatever we were told yesterday doesn't apply today and it will change tomorrow! So how do we begin a school year under these situations?

- **BE AS SAFE AS WE CAN IN THE MOMENT WE ARE IN.** We are going to work hard to figure this out daily. Rules, restrictions, and even guidelines may change constantly for all of us, but we want to work together to figure this out.
- **BE FLEXIBLE.** We are going to keep making changes on an ongoing basis, so we all must be prepared for changes. It's not how we like to do business, but we must deal with our situation as best we can!
- **BE TOLERANT.** Each one of us has beliefs and feelings about where we are as a country, community, and even world. However, it is more important than ever before that we approach each other with a measure of grace—especially when we don't agree!

As far as the next step, what can you be doing?

- Discuss as a family which option is best for you. **We are offering both face to face and remote options.** Let us know your choice by August 12, 2020 (forms sent out to each campus). Once you have chosen a learning option, your student's campus will be in touch regarding the next steps.
- Remind your children about good hygiene practices—school will look a little different this year. The more we all work together on being safe, the more we can hopefully get back to looking a bit more normal (whatever that might be)!
- Get ready for August 26, 2020!!! That will be our first day of school no matter which option you choose!

We will be continually adding information, so please stay in contact with your campus!

Sincerely,  
Darol Hail, Ed. D.