August 11, 2020

Emerado Public School families,

The challenge now is planning for what school will look like during the 2020-2021 school year. This is a daunting task as we all realize how the impact and response to COVID-19 has changed rapidly over the past four months. This plan will try to address these challenges, while providing a flexible framework to guide our response over the next school year.

For academic, social-emotional, and economic reasons, we are compelled to strive to return to an in-person model. Yet, we cannot disregard that the health and safety concerns associated with the virus remain. The district must consider all practical steps to keep our schools from contributing to virus spread in our community.

This plan presents hundreds of hours of critical thinking, research, modeling, and work by our educators, staff, and school board. This group reviewed input gathered from our employees and parents. To prepare for the different learning modalities required to provide a quality education, we will adjust our calendar and begin our school year on **Thursday, August 27.**

We realize that reviewing this plan may not address every question you have. We recognize some concepts and actions may be polarizing, and there are strong opinions about what the school should do or should not. But we must remain open to what is possible and consider all options so we can move forward.

We will be providing a survey to all of our families with their decision to receive their instruction face to face, or from a distance within our registration and through our website [www.emeradok8.com](http://www.emeradok8.com). Families will have this option for their student each quarter of the school year or when safeguards are in place to keep all stakeholders safe. Requirements will need to be met in both instances such as attendance, grading, and engagement each day. From what we have reflected on from last spring, we are confident we can prepare for a more convenient and quality education in preparation for the 2020-2021 school year.

Thank you for your time reviewing this plan. We encourage everyone to ask questions and communicate their concerns as we move forward. Together, our school can provide quality education to our children in a safe manner, if we work together to solve problems.

North Dakota is currently in the green phase. Within that phase are assurances, protocols, and requirements in providing safety in our building.

Changes made and approved by the school board are as follows:

* Instruction Method: a survey will be sent every quarter with a decision to stay in-person or distance learn. (Family option, quarterly)
  + In person instruction for those who choose.
    - Cannot switch methods, unless starting in-person and moving to distance.
  + Distance learning for families who choose.
    - Cannot switch methods if you register for distance learning.
    - All Emerado Public School educators will have a teaching tool called “Swivel” that will follow the teacher and his/her instruction through Zoom.
    - Same content and standards
    - Daily participation and engagement are required.
    - Grade scale, expectations, and attendance is required.
    - Guidance, technology, and other resources will be prepared before the school year begins.
* Registration: August 18th 9:00am – 1:00pm, August 19th 1:00pm – 3:00 pm, August 20th 11:00am – 2:00pm
* Meet & Greet: August 25th 1pm – 5pm, Technology and materials handed out.
* Start Date: August 27th
* Face Coverings: Face masks will be required to be worn when physical distancing is not possible. When students are in classrooms or outside, they will not be required.
* Students will be encouraged to bring their own face masks or covering, face masks will be available if necessary.
* Transportation:
  + In town students will need alternate transportation unless emergency.
  + Every other seat seating. (Other than siblings)
  + Mask.
* Food Service:
  + Subject to change. Meals available for pick-up at Door #2 at 12:30pm during school days.
  + Breakfast – picked up by grade level and brought into classrooms.
    - PreK – 1 in lunchroom
  + Lunch – picked up by grade level and brought into classrooms.
    - PreK – 1 in lunchroom

More updates will be provided as we continue to work on our plan and prepare for all obstacles and variables. Thank you!

Mickey Berry - Superintendent