

September 24, 2020

Dear Students, Staff, Families and Friends of GUSD,

As I write this short update we are enjoying having students back on our campuses for the first time in about six months. What a wild and crazy time over the past several months for GUSD and for the rest of the world. There have been truly unprecedented choices for individuals, families, communities, and school districts to make. At GUSD we faced remoted learning in the spring, delayed graduation over the summer, delayed school start in August, a totally remote start to classes, and then a decision in September to bring back some of our students for in-person classes. When we started school in August of 2019, I don't think any of us realized how challenging the 2020 year would be.

Well, we are in our 4th day of an attempt to move toward the old normal. GUSD has about half of its students in the buildings beginning Monday, September 21, 2020. Our busses are running routes and picking up students each day. Breakfast and lunch are being served to students daily. High school sports teams began practice a week ago and we are moving toward middle school sports in the near future. All of these are signals that we are trying to move past the COVID-19 pandemic and back to some sense of normalcy.

I just wanted to thank you all for your patience, understanding, and support as we try to get through the pandemic together. We know there are many viewpoints about the best response to the situation we all find ourselves in. I would ask that we all continue to try to be respectful about all of the different perspectives that are present in our culture.

As we move forward in the upcoming days and weeks, our ultimate goal is to get back to normal. When that will happen is uncertain. We all wish it would be sooner rather than later. We would love to have all of our students back in class without masks or social distancing. We cannot promise this will happen anytime soon. We can promise we will work together as staff, administration, and school board to make wise and informed decisions about how and when we can get back to normal. As always our goal is to live up to our district vision of "Capturing Hearts, Empowering Minds". Now, more than ever, this goal needs to be at the forefront of all of our efforts.

Sincerely,

Jerry Jennex, Superintendent