

June 16, 2020

Dear Green Lake Families,

I hope this letter finds your family well. I want to thank parents, teachers, staff and all community members for your continued support of the children of our community. I am writing to recap how our school district responded to the COVID-19 pandemic emergency and to provide you with a forecast of what the 2020-21 school year will look like. I know that it is important for families to begin planning.

On March 13<sup>th</sup>, when we first realized that school was going to close, we moved fast to provide remote learning. We knew that not all families had adequate access to the internet, so we surveyed our families and issued 17 hotspots. Fortunately, teachers in grades 7-12 had been preparing for remote learning since the district issued one-on-one devices eight years ago. Students were familiar with the Google technology and were able to transition easily. Students in grades 3-6 were also familiar with using a Chromebook, and we had devices ready for their use. Students in grades 4K-2 were provided packets of materials that were refreshed every two weeks through the curbside pickup process.

We also moved fast to provide meals for our students. Parents completed a survey so that we could assess the need. We began providing breakfast and lunch during the first week of closure. Our food service workers and instructional aides produced and delivered over 5,816 meals. The Boys and Girls Club also helped by providing dinners upon request.

We found that remote learning was not the number one preference for our students. Our students missed their friends and the one-on-one relationships with their teachers. Important milestones, such as prom, 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation, elementary field trips and camping trips were canceled or postponed to next year. From this time did come a few positives- the Class of 2020 did their traditional Victory Walk and received their diplomas, the 4K participated in a drive-through graduation, the Choir gave an outstanding virtual performance, and the high school student council provided virtual activities for the entire school.

The 2020-21 school year holds many unknowns for the Green Lake School District. We do know that we will be beginning the school year in the fall with new guidelines and protocols. We have formed a "Reopening School" Task Force to begin planning for next fall. The committee is using data/recommendations from our local and state Public Health Coordinators, the Department of Public Instruction, our legal counsel, insurance company, and other state and national professional organizations to guide its decisions. We are also communicating with other school districts in the region.

We cannot fully communicate the reopening plan at this time, but please know that we are aware that this is a priority as families need to make their necessary plans.

Our main goal is to return to in-person school. However, we do not know what is going to happen with COVID-19 and want to be prepared with a variety of scenarios, which may include:

- In-person school with smaller class sizes, social distancing, health and safety protocols, and changes to the structure of the day (recess, lunch, library, specials, etc.)

- Blended instruction- a combination of in-person instruction and virtual instruction (alternating schedules to limit numbers in the building).
- Return to remote learning/virtual instruction

We understand that a blended in-person / virtual approach will likely create significant childcare issues for parents with younger school-age children. The “Reopening School” committee is looking all aspects of this problem. We will work to effectively meet the needs of our families, but we must prioritize the health and safety of our students and staff.

Parent support during this trying time has been amazing. We cannot do this without you! We are asking for your feedback about the 2019-2020 school closure and for your ideas for the 2020-21 school year. Please be looking for a parent survey on the school website, the school Facebook page and sent to your email address. Please help us make important decisions about your child’s instructional plan for next year.

In Appreciation,

Mary Allen