



Newark Community High School

District No. 18

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Amy B. Smith, Superintendent
James Still, Principal

Dear Newark High School Families,

I hope you are having a good summer and finding some time to relax. This letter will update you on the development of our plan to resume learning for the 2020-2021 school year.

I would like to thank all of the parents and staff members that completed the school planning survey. We had 112 parents (representing 139 of our 174 students) and 32 staff members complete the survey. I am very pleased with the level of participation and the thoughtful consideration we received. In addition to the survey, we have also assembled a Transition Team into several committees that included: Academic Planning team, Operations Team, Communication Team, Human Relations Team, Student and Family Support Team, and Health and Wellness Team to finalize our plans.

Here is some critical data from the parent survey:

- The Top 3 priorities for Re-opening school are:
 - 1) Building cleaning and sanitation is the top concern. – 68%
 - 2) Improved communication of the Education Plan, Grading & Expectations -67%
 - 3) What additional resources will be provided to support remote learning? - 47%
- The Top 3 resources you need in place to make your child feel safe were:
 - 1) Personal Hygiene supplies are readily available – 81%
 - 2) Cleaning supplies recognized by the CDC are utilized – 78%
 - 3) A clearly communicated plan for re-opening is provided – 68%
- After reflecting upon IDPH and ISBE guidance, 75% of respondents expressed little to no concern over wearing masks or face coverings all day.
- 83% of our families prefer some amount of in-person instruction and 17% preferring to do remote instruction.
- 93% of parents reported having reliable home Internet services for online instruction.
- 80% indicated that they would NOT be riding the bus.
- With regard to suggestions for improving remote learning, the overwhelming response was to run remote learning as close to in-person instruction as possible, using the district-approved curriculum. A daily schedule of live Zoom lessons for each class based on a normal school day would be used and student's faces required instead of a black or blank screen.

Here is some critical data from the staff surveys:

- When school re-opens, will you feel safe returning?
 - Yes- 20%
 - No – 13%
 - Not Sure – 67%
- The Top 3 resources you need in place to make feel safe were:
 - 1) Cleaning supplies recognized by the CDC are utilized – 93%

“Success is achieved by cooperation in teaching and learning.”

- 2) Personal Hygiene supplies are readily available – 90%
- 3) A clearly communicated plan for re-opening is provided – 87%

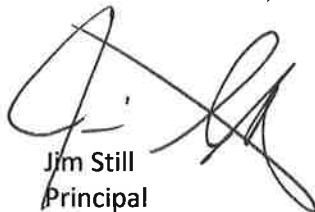
- Newark High School may need to utilize various plans and schedules during the 20-21 school year based upon rules and ISBE guidance. This will likely include in-person and remote learning. How comfortable are you with this?
60% would like to teach in person at school
40% would prefer to teach remotely following the school schedule online

As you may be aware, the rules and regulations issued by ISBE continue to evolve, making it quite challenging to finalize plans. Please remember, in order for Newark High School to conduct in-person instruction, we MUST follow the guidance documents that ISBE releases. This guidance includes, among many other guidelines, all of the following:

- Students and staff are required to wear face coverings at all times, including bus transportation, except while eating and during band.
- Medical exemptions for wearing masks are allowed with medical documentation.
- Social distancing must be observed, as much as possible.
- Daily symptom screening and temperature checks are required for all individuals entering the school building or a school bus. Parents may daily self-certify that their children are free of symptoms.
- Gatherings of more than 50 individuals in one space are prohibited.
- Districts must increase school-wide cleaning and disinfection.

Newark High School is committed to developing a plan that abides by ISBE and IDPH guidelines and considers the views of parents, faculty, staff, and students. This undertaking will no doubt fail to meet the wishes of all parties; however, please know that we will do our very best to construct a sound and legal plan that prioritizes in-person instruction, but is flexible enough to adapt to remote learning. We will be sending you our finalized Return to School plan no later than July 30th.

Yours in education,



Jim Still
Principal