



July 29, 2020

Dear Seward Parents/Guardians:

I want to thank you for your continued patience and flexibility now and into the 2020-2021 school year. As you can imagine there are a great deal of details that go into starting a typical school year, and the COVID-19 pandemic has provided the district the opportunity to spend most of the summer planning for the start of this unique school year.

Our plan was developed with two main goals throughout our process:

1. Keep students and staff safe.
2. Start school with students for in person teaching and learning and keep students and staff in school.

Our plan has been designed based on guidance from all of the state health organizations, the CDC, Nebraska Department of Education, and our local Four Corners Health Department. I have attached our reopening plan, but please know that in this environment, adjustments may have to be made with our plan. The Board of Education approved a COVID-19 Resolution on Monday, July 27 that contains some of the major points of our fall reopening plan. I have also included a brief summary of some of the major points of our plan.

- Seward Public Schools will start school in-person on August 13th.
- Classes will be in person five days per week.
- Seward Public Schools will not offer an alternative digital option, unless a student requires a different educational placement by law, such as an IEP or 504 plan, has a health services plan, lives with a relative who is immunocompromised, or your child is under a direct medical quarantine.
- Face coverings - Each student will be provided a cloth face covering. Students may choose to bring their own school appropriate face covering. When the Four Corners Health Department risk dial is green (low risk), coverings will be encouraged. When the risk dial is yellow (moderate risk) or orange (high risk), face coverings will be required when consistent social distancing of six feet can't be maintained. At this time we will be starting school with required face coverings since our risk dial is in yellow.
- Staff will create opportunities to allow students to take frequent mask breaks when face coverings are required.
- Staff and students will practice social distancing as much as possible.
- Additional classroom/building cleaning protocols will be in place.
- The process for making this plan included multiple stakeholder groups: Board of Education members, Administrators, Teachers, and Parents.
- Please refer to the Parent Q and A document attached along with a short video that goes into more detail about the process for developing our plan and questions you may have.

The Seward Public Schools Stakeholder Teams have put a lot of time and effort into our plan and have kept student and staff safety a priority. Our goal is to have a successful 2020-21 school year, and it will be tremendously important that we work together with you to ensure a positive experience for your child(ren). We appreciate your support and look forward to starting school on August 13th.

Sincerely,

Josh Fields

Dr. Josh Fields
Superintendent