**U.S.D. 466**Scott County Schools
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July 23, 2020

Dear Parents of U.S.D. 466 Students,

A lot has transpired since March 12, 2020, the last time students attended the district’s school buildings. Just as it appears we were on track to recovery in Kansas, new cases of Coronavirus have the concern right back in front of us. Please know our district is working diligently to assure educating our students starts as soon as we are safely able to do so, and it continues as consistently as possible.

Developments at the state level regarding school health and safety keep the target moving for creating a reopening plan. New information and guidance on handling the virus is constantly coming in, and adapting to latest update causes plans to change. District planning has revolved around this guidance, and plans will likely see adjustments as we proceed.

At the July 22, 2020 Kansas State Board of Education meeting, it was decided that schools will be able to set their own start date. For USD 466 students, the originally planned first day of school is August 20. We have full intention to keep this start date, but need to consider changes to allow preparation time for our situation moving forward. If there is a need to change for preparation purposes, we will communicate this to parents via email, website, local media, and social media.

The district reopening plan is in progress and will remain that way until all stakeholders’ questions and concerns have been considered. At this time our plan includes three tiers described below:

* **Tier 1 - Open Buildings**: This tier includes open buildings with full attendance expectations. We are cautious to call this a normal routine, as it will have many levels of restrictions for safety. Tier 1 may require any or all of the following; masks, physical distancing measures, symptom checks, increased cleaning and disinfectant measures, and hygiene practices. Accommodations may be made within this tier for students who have a compromised immune system by allowing guardians to monitor school work from home.
* **Tier 2 – Partially Open Buildings**: Should the number of positive cases increase dramatically, we will consider a plan that would allow partial attendance in our buildings. This tier is an attempt to balance stricter physical distancing with partial, in-person instruction, and would require students to attend part-time. No decisions have been made about how this tier works best for us, but examples may include only morning or afternoon attendance, or attending every other day.
* **Tier 3 – Closed Buildings**: The 3rd tier is our last option and involves no attendance in buildings, with connection made virtually. There has been some critical feedback on the effectiveness of this option from our experience last spring. Please understand we learned a lot about this process last spring, and intend to make adjustments if we get to this level.

Without a doubt, our district feels Tier 1 is the most effective way to educate students, and all efforts will be exhausted to stay in this tier. Tiers 2 and 3 are in place only as a measure to keep the learning process going should a spike in infections occur. If we resort to Tier 2 or 3, all efforts will be made to move back to Tier 1 as quickly and safely as possible.

We want to create opportunities to hear from our parents regarding the reopening planning and the start of the school year. A couple of ways to do this are:

* On Tuesday, July 28 at 6:00 p.m., we will hold an open meeting for parents to hear the progress on our reopening plan and provide feedback. This meeting will be held in the auditorium at Scott Community High School.
* Below is a parent survey. Please take time to answer the questions and give us your feedback on perceptions of the start of school. Your input is critical to the planning process. This survey will be open until August 2, 2020, and all feedback will be considered in our reopening plan.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdcOsa82-UjbdX2QwCAOnec4SR9CuKgmi_5EecGaqooUJ00og/viewform?usp=sf_link>

One final note: Online enrollment for all school buildings is now open. To enroll, visit [www.usd466.com](http://www.usd466.com). From there, hover or click on the school your student will be attending and click on FORMS. All enrollment information is available there. With the forms, please complete the “EZ Meal App (Free & Reduced Meal Application).” Last year we received a very low number of these, and they are important for our families and school programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to work with your children. We look forward to making an incredible experience for them again this school year!

Please stay safe and healthy!

In Education,

Jamie Rumford

Superintendent of Schools – USD 466-Scott County Schools