

August 4, 2020

Hello Springville Students, Families and Community,

I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy during this trying time we are experiencing with the coronavirus pandemic. I thank you for your patience as we have been working and preparing for the new school year.

I have attached the Springville Return To School Plan for the 2020-21 school year. A great deal of work, collaboration and thought have gone into this plan. As was stated earlier, Springville is planning on returning to school on site with all students. In this document you will find many precautions and procedures being put in place to keep students and staff as safe as possible. This plan has been presented to the school board for review. The school board will have a public hearing to hear public feedback on August 10th at 6 pm at the Springville Secondary building in the cafeteria. The Springville CSD School Board will make the final decision on the night of August 13th at 6 pm at a special school board meeting.

One big topic that has been discussed and evaluated since early this summer is the use of face coverings. While at the beginning of July I had stated that face coverings would be highly recommended and not required, I have changed my earlier recommendation to **“require”** face coverings for students in grades 1st -12th and all staff members when social distancing is not possible. For students in preschool and kindergarten, face coverings will be highly recommended. In looking at the upcoming school year, the COVID-19 situation has not improved and in many aspects it has gotten worse. When planning to bring everyone back, we looked at trying to ensure social distancing for all students and staff. We have determined that we will not be able to social distance in many areas of the building throughout the school day. We have decided to recommend a requirement of face coverings in an attempt to do our part and help slow the spread of COVID-19. Our alternate option would be to look at a “hybrid” plan like several other districts and bring students back 50% at a time. In that model masks could be highly recommended. We, however, are not considering a “hybrid” model at this time. We will also have an online educational option for families that are not comfortable sending their student(s) back on-site due to COVID-19 and parents will need to fill out a request form to participate.

While this plan has been challenging and controversial, I ask that we as the Springville Community Schools and the community rally together, be positive, and do everything we can to make this plan work. Many hours have gone into this plan and while you may not agree with everything in this plan, I ask for your support. Decisions are being recommended based on the information we currently have and we believe we are recommending a plan that will best serve the students, families, and staff of Springville in good faith.

Again, there will be a public forum on August 10th at 6 pm in the Springville cafeteria for people to provide feedback to the school board. If you are unable to attend, I would encourage you to contact board members with your feedback. I just ask that the Springville school community continue to treat people with respect, regardless of what decisions are being made. Thank you to the Springville community for your feedback and your continued support. What lies ahead is uncertain, but what I am sure of is we will be doing everything we can to make the best decisions, provide a safe learning environment for all staff and students, and make the 2020-21 school year a success!

Pat Hocking Springville Superintendent