



August 11, 2021

Kahok Families,

On August 18th, less than seven days from now, our hallways will be filled with students and staff. I want to encourage everyone in Kahok Nation - students, staff and community members - to wear purple and show your Kahok Pride to kick off the start of the 21-22 school year.

Updates to 21-22 Return to Learn Plan

As guidance from the CDC, IDPH and Governor Pritzker's most recent Executive Order continue to evolve, our district's primary focus continues to revolve around providing a full-day schedule, five-days-a-week, while ensuring the health of our staff and students. Based on the rise in cases throughout the metro east in recent weeks, requiring masks for students, staff and visitors in our buildings helps ensure we are able to provide a face to face learning environment for our students.

The district's Return to Learn Plan has changes based upon two recent updates listed below. Changes are highlighted in purple in the revised document which can be found on our website by clicking [this link](#). The changes are as follows:

1. *In accordance with the Governor's Executive Order 2021-18, masks are **required** to be worn indoors by all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to Pre-K-12 schools who are two years of age or older and medically able to tolerate a mask, regardless of vaccination status.*
2. *Alternative to exclusion due to close contact at school:
In accordance with CDC guidance, there will be a Test-to-Stay Strategy option available for unvaccinated K-12 students. Eligible students include:*
 - *Those who were considered in close indoor contact with a confirmed positive case*
 - *Engaged in consistent and correct use of a well-fitting mask, and*
 - *Within 3 ft social distance from the positive case.*

Close contacts will be determined by the school principal/nurse. If a student meets the criteria outlined above, the student may be COVID-19 Antigen tested on day(s) one (1), three (3), five (5), and seven (7) from exposure to the positive case with day one (1) being the first day following the exposure. If the student remains asymptomatic with negative antigen test results, they may stay in school. They will be expected to report any symptoms promptly to the school nurse for assessment. Students who are on the Test-to-Stay plan following a close contact will be expected to report to the school health office upon arrival at school. In some instances it may be necessary for the school nurse

to provide an alternative testing time. Parents/students will be notified of this information by the school principal/nurse. Written parental consent must be obtained and parents will be notified prior to testing. Parents will be notified on day one (1), three (3), five (5) only if a positive test result or symptoms/assessment warrant notification and the student will be excluded from school. Following testing on day 7, written notification of all four (4) test results will be sent to the parent. As required by IDPH, COVID antigen test results will continue to be reported on the IDPH portal and positive antigen test results will be shared with the local health department for quarantine follow up procedures.

Facilities Improvements

While pandemic-related issues have been at the forefront as we return to school, there have been many exciting improvements to our schools during summer break. A list of improvements that have occurred throughout the district include:

District Wide

- Asphalt resealing Phase 2

Webster Elementary

- Asbestos abatement in cafeteria/basement and classrooms
- New epoxy flooring in cafeteria/basement and first floor of original classroom wing
- New paint in cafeteria/basement and first floor of original classroom wing
- New chiller and boiler installed in the boiler house
- Cooling tower concrete stand poured with structural steel to support the cooling towers
- New whiteboards and bulletin boards installed in renovated classrooms

Dorris Intermediate School

- Updated STEM classroom – new flooring & painted
- 8 Bathroom renovations with new epoxy flooring, toilets and sinks

Collinsville High School

- Tennis courts had crack repair, resurfaced and painted purple & grey
- Track repairs, resprayed and restriped
- CHS Girl's Locker Room renovation – asbestos abatement, new epoxy flooring, new showers, new toilets/storage and all new lockers
- New Kahok Success Center made out of Room 609 with separate entry
- Library painted
- Conference room updated and painted
- Extended outside cafeteria space with new concrete pads; 5 more picnic tables on order

Twin Echo Elementary

- New playground gate installed

New Programs to Support Students

Last and most importantly, in response to the challenges endured during the previous school year, the district is excited to begin multiple programs for the coming school year to better meet the academic and social/emotional needs of our students. I want to compliment the constant effort of our district staff to think outside the box and continually evolve! New programs and curriculum for the 2021-22 school year are listed below:

- CHS Success Center Program
- CMS Trailblazer Academy
- JumpStart to Education Program
- Summer Learning Programs
- PreK Bilingual Class
- 5th Grade Bi-lingual Classroom
- Emergent Bilingual Class-K-4 housed at Kreitner Elementary
- Summer Learning Packets for all K-4th grade students
- Kindergarten Screening
- New Social Studies Curriculum Resources grades 3-5
- New Math Curriculum Resources for grades 6-12
- New English Curriculum Resources for grade 10
- Hazel Health Partnership for 7th-12th grade students

This summer has been jam-packed while staff prepared a Return Learn Plan, focused on facility improvements, started numerous new programs and implemented multiple new curriculums. Despite the struggles of navigating the impact of COVID-19 on our communities, our district has not lost sight of regular improvements. We are excited to begin the 21-22 school year! Thank you for your constant dedication to our students and don't forget to wear your purple and show your Kahok Pride!

Mark B. Skertich Ed.D.
Superintendent