



Knob Noster R-VIII School District

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Dr. Jerrod Wheeler, Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Michael Cohron, Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Angela Rolofson, Director, Student Services

Our Mission Is Student Success

Date: 7-25-2020

To: Knob Noster Public Schools Community

From: Jerrod Wheeler

Re: Virtual Town Hall on July 29 - Return to School and Response Plan

Dear Knob Noster Public Schools Community,

I invite you to join Dr. Rolofson, Mr. Cohron and me on Wednesday, July 29 at 6:00 p.m. for a Virtual Town Hall regarding the district's Return to School and Response Plan. The town hall will be an opportunity to review learning options for the 2020-2021 school year, what to expect at our schools, and a live Q&A session. We will host the town hall via Facebook Live on the district page: www.facebook.com/KnobNosterSchools. If you are unable to watch the town hall on Wednesday, the video will be available for later viewing on our Facebook page and district website.

In case you missed my July 22 memo and Knob Noster's Return to School and Response Plan, they are included below. The district is requesting all families to respond no later than July 31 to provide feedback about transportation, in-person instruction, virtual instruction, and other items.

I hope you can join us for the Virtual Town Hall on Wednesday!

Very Respectfully,

Jerrod Wheeler

Date: 7-22-2020
To: KNPS Parents and Students
From: Jerrod Wheeler
Re: Covid-19 Return to School and Response Plan – **ACTION REQUIRED**

Dear KNPS Parents and Students:

I hope this email find you safe and healthy and that your summer has gone well during these unique times. In just over a month, we will return to school for the 2020-2021 school year, and it goes without saying that there is a wide range of opinions and emotions about how that should occur. Knob Noster Public Schools places safety as a top priority. As we continue to embrace the Covid-19 pandemic, the district is working to provide an environment that is as safe and as normal as possible for our students, teachers, and community.

As Knob Noster Public Schools transitions into the 2020-2021 school year, there are many unknowns. However, in the midst of uncertainty, the district knows that families and communities need schools to be ready to reopen as soon as possible with guidance from local, state and national agencies. This is a moment when all of us—educators, families, and communities—must unite to ensure that children reenter schools with safety as a top priority so that learning can continue and students can develop the academic, social and emotional experiences necessary for their growth. These past several months have served as a great reminder of the role that public schools play in ensuring equitable education and support services for all students.

Attached to this memo is the KNPS Covid-19 Return to School and Response Plan. This plan is expected to evolve as new information is received. This plan should answer many questions you may have. In addition, the plan provides the following educational options, so that you may select the educational plan that works best for you.

SNAPSHOT PREVIEW

In an effort to respond to the full scope of considerations of the Covid-19 pandemic, including student education and service concerns, parental employment concerns, economic recovery concerns, political concerns, national security concerns, and a variety of other considerations, the following options will be provided this year as components of our return to school plan. In attempt to meet the various preferences and situations of our students, families and community, parents will be able to choose their educational format from one of the options below:

In-Person Education**

KNPS will offer a traditional format where students will come to school and learn in a face to face environment with their teacher and peers with a schedule that closely aligns to a routine school year. Additional safeguards which will be provided to minimize risk are described later in this document. Students choosing this option would switch to remote learning if/when a quarantine or shutdown occurs as described later in this document.

Online Virtual Education

KNPS will offer a 100% virtual learning option for students. For grades 6-12, this will be provided through the Knob Noster Virtual Academy Powered by Edmentum's Ed Options Academy. For grades K-5, the district may also use the Knob Noster Virtual Academy OR may place the student in a cohort group (single or multiple grade level) with instruction provided by a Knob Noster teacher. The district's delivery method will depend on the number of students choosing this option. A student choosing this option will be required to remain with this option for the entire semester. For an overview, please visit <https://www.edoptionsacademy.com/>

MOCAP

KNPS will offer 100% virtual learning options through the Missouri Course Access and Virtual School Program (MOCAP). A student choosing this option will be required to remain with this option for the entire semester. For an overview, please visit <https://mocap.mo.gov/>

Homeschool Education

Parents reserve the right to homeschool students. Once a student is registered for homeschooling a letter with the intent to homeschool and the drop date for the student must be submitted to the child's school office.

**Knob Noster Public Schools may exercise a partial, intermittent, or full closure due to the health status of our school, community, or region. In this instance, the district will immediately shift to virtual learning options through our Alternative Methods of Instruction Extended (AMIX) Plan.

REQUIRED RESPONSE FROM PARENTS

After reviewing this document, we are requesting that one parent from each household respond to the survey found at this link. This survey will provide valuable feedback to the district so that we may plan appropriately for transportation, in-person instruction, virtual instruction, and other items. **Failure to respond to this survey may result in delays in your child's return to school and/or transportation needs. Thank you in advance for your time to complete this important survey. Please complete this survey/register your children by July 31, 2020.**

[CLICK HERE TO COMPLETE THE REQUIRED PARENT SURVEY](#)

REQUIRED RESPONSE FOR ACTIVITIES AND ATHLETICS

For student planning to participate in a school sanctioned extracurricular activity, the following form must be completed. Students currently participating in sports have already completed this form.

[CLICK HERE TO COMPLETE THE REQUIRED PARENT SURVEY](#)

Commitment to Mutual Respect and Public Health

The Covid-19 Pandemic is a challenge unlike any of us have ever faced. It can be dangerous, deadly, politicized, elusive, emotional, unpredictable, sensationalized and/or it can be a host of other things. It can also be none of the above. One significant consideration the district is working very carefully to embrace is that Covid-19 can be a variety of things based on both science/data AND based on individual viewpoints, opinions, or experiences.

As we move forward, we know that our success or failure rests upon the extent to which all members of the Knob Noster Public Schools community commit to working together with the following in mind:

- Respectful behavior for self and others
- Commitment to the common health for self and others
- Empathy for the situation rather than emotion
- Open, honest and respectful two-way communication
- That which is in the best educational and health interest of our students

Looking ahead, we do not know and we cannot control what the future will bring. However, we do know that we have both the ability and the choice to determine how we will embrace this situation and how we will treat one another. The Knob Noster Public Schools Community has come together, worked together, and demonstrated respect together as we embraced this situation. Our team is committed to continuing to operate with ongoing commitment to the items lists above. Working together, we can get through this situation in stride, and fully leverage our capabilities as a school district to provide quality education for our students and additional supports for our families who need it most.

In Knob Noster Public Schools, Our Mission Is Student Success!

Very Respectfully,

Jerrold Wheeler