



July 21, 2021

Dear National School District Families,

Welcome back to school! Just a reminder that we are on a modified year-round calendar and **school starts this coming Monday, July 26, 2021**. Be sure to remind your neighbors and friends.

We are very excited about this coming year. Our theme is now and then, celebrating our present while learning from our past. We have much to celebrate starting with our 150th **sesquicentennial anniversary!** We are also opening classrooms for **full in-person instruction** for the first time since the pandemic began. Although we will be reopening with safety precautions still in place, we plan to incorporate many **lessons from the pandemic** into new routines.

Students returning to school should expect to see classrooms set up with distance between desks, personal acrylic shields, and individual student materials. We have also installed **medical-grade filters** in our air conditioning system; the same filters used in hospitals. Water fountains will remain off, so students should **bring a refillable water bottle** to use at our touchless hydration stations. Disposable paper cups will be available, for students without a refillable bottle.

To comply with the State health mandate, **masks will be worn indoors** with the exception of breakfast and lunch. We understand that many people may consider the face covering requirement unnecessary, while others may believe the guidance does not go far enough. Some media reports have implied that districts have the discretion to make face coverings optional, which is not accurate. Students will be able to take an optional **mask break while outdoors** and will be encouraged to engage in physical distancing on the playground.

For parents still worried about the pandemic, and sending their children back to school, we understand. Dr. Kraft, Assistant Superintendent-Educational Services, has sent out several messages, as well as held several meetings, regarding our **Independent Study option** for parents who would like to continue with remote learning at this time. In order to be able to offer this option, we will be working with a third-party partner to provide educational program services to students. **More details about this option** can be found on our website at www.nsd.us or by emailing superintendent@nsd.us.

We are looking forward to having you all back next week. For additional information about the start of the 2021-2022 school year, look for a letter from your school principal.

Sincerely,

Dr. Leighangela Brady

Dr. Leighangela Brady
Superintendent

NATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Creating Successful Learners... Now