

A message from WILMINGTON CMTY UNIT SD 209-U

ATTENTION PARENTS & STUDENTS –

We are so very excited for tomorrow's 1st Day of School in the Wilmington School District! The faculty, staff, administration and school board are all truly looking forward to a memorable and exciting 2020-2021 school year. Whether you are beginning the new year back in-person at one of our four buildings tomorrow morning or virtually with Remote Learning, we are beyond excited to re-engage with the kids of Wilmington. Our reality in the Wilmington School District and the entire world around us changed very quickly and significantly in Mid-March; and although we still face many uncertainties and an ever changing landscape, the past 5 months have reminded all of us exactly how much we cherish the opportunities to actively serve the students and families of Wilmington across all grade levels.

Please know that a tremendous amount of careful and detailed planning has been devoted all throughout the summer to plan for a safe and successful return to in-person teaching & learning. I am unbelievably proud of our staff for all of the efforts that have been made, and am confident that we will be able to stay safe while also reconnecting in-person. However, we undoubtedly will need your partnership and assistance beginning tomorrow morning and all throughout the year ahead.

First of all, it is vital for all students and adults who enter any of our buildings to wear cloth face masks at all times, while also striving to maintain a safe social distance whenever possible.

Also, I wanted to remind all parents & students that anyone returning to in-person instruction has agreed to self-check for any potential covid-related symptoms and/or elevated temperatures (above 100.4) each morning before leaving the house to come to school. Anyone experiencing symptoms of any kind (fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, fatigue, muscle and body aches, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, congestion, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea) or elevated temps should simply STAY AT HOME. We usually honor things such as perfect attendance and 'toughing it out'.... But in this year's new reality, it is extremely important to keep those who may potentially be exposed to the virus away from our school buildings.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to share the most current and updated versions of our Return to School / Work flowchart along with an accompanying document providing additional details. These documents (see attached) will be carefully followed in all cases in which students or staff are required to stay home from school as we move ahead into the new school year. Please know that we are anticipating to see some positive cases as we work through this challenging situation together. We are all well aware that COVID-19 is everywhere, including Wilmington. In all instances involving positive tests of students or staff, and even in just those situations in which we have any cause for potential concern medically speaking, our school nurses and administrators will be working very closely with our direct contacts with the Will County Health Department. We will be relying heavily on medical experts to guide any decision related to health and wellness in the days, weeks and months ahead. We are also committed to communicating as clearly and openly as possible with our parents, students, and staff when situations arise.

Thank you again to all parents, students and staff for your cooperation and understanding as we undertook this challenge to return to school, within this current COVID reality. Please know that the safety and well-being of our students, staff, families and our community as a whole will continue serve as our highest priority as we tackle this exciting school year ahead.

It's my honor and pleasure to officially welcome everyone back to the 2020-2021 school year! Can't wait to see our kids back in the classroom tomorrow morning... both physically and virtually!

In Wildcat Pride,

Matt Swick

Superintendent of Schools

Wilmington School District