

# Pikeville Independent Schools

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Panther Families:

Good evening! We hope each of you have had an awesome summer. We wanted to send you a couple pieces of information as we move forward and prepare our return to school on Thursday, August 19<sup>th</sup>. We are extremely excited to have your students back in their classrooms to begin this new school year. The team in our district has worked hard throughout the summer providing summer programming for students, providing summer meals, attending trainings and professional learning opportunities, and preparing their classrooms and other areas for the new school year. We are going to have an amazing year across our district.

I want to stress that our number one priority is to ensure that our students learn in our classrooms and throughout our schools with the best of the best in education. Our conversation throughout the summer has only been about the best way to assure this happens for our students, and it will continue to be our goal, and to drive our decisions moving forward.

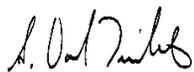
As we closed out the 2020-2021 school year with all students attending five days per week together, we proved that we could successfully keep our students safe while continuing to learn in our classrooms. This is a credit to our students who were so cooperative, our team who worked hard to promote and encourage safe choices, and to our families, who were greatly supportive of the work that was necessary to meet requirements and keep our students in school. While many of us had hoped to no longer be discussing COVID as we enter the 2021-2022 school year, that obviously is not going to be an option. However, we do know how to successfully navigate this situation with our students in the classrooms, and I am confident we will have the same success this school year.

We will continue to focus on proper mitigation strategies during the school year. Our schools will be cleaned thoroughly daily, as has always been the case. We will also have cleaning schedules for high-touch surfaces throughout each day. We will continue to work with our students on washing hands and keeping separation to the extent necessary. Our goal will be to keep students separated by three feet whenever possible, but just as was the case when we returned everyone last year, there will be times this will not be an option.

As many of you are aware, Governor Beshear signed an Executive Order this afternoon that requires masking indoors for all K-12 institutions. As a result, beginning tomorrow, August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021, masks will be required indoors throughout the Pikeville Independent School District for both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals. While there will be many opinions on the mandate, I can confidently say that we will successfully implement it in our schools, just as was the case in our previous school year. Our students were awesome at following this requirement last year, and I am confident we will see the same in the coming weeks.

We will have a full guidance document available later this week, with updates to the information as a result of today's announcement by the Governor. We are blessed to live in an amazing community, who supports the success and wellbeing of every student in the district. Thank you for the continued support that is evident from each of you, and the role each of you play in helping to make this an amazing district. We hope you enjoy the last few days of summer break and cannot wait to see your children on August 19<sup>th</sup>! Go Panthers!

Sincerely,



S. David Trimble  
Superintendent