



LAKEVIEW INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #2167

875 Barstad Road North • Cottonwood, MN 56229

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Dr. Chris Fenske | Superintendent | Ext. 1305

Mr. Scott Hanson | Secondary Principal | Ext. 1302

Mrs. Courtney Frie | Elementary Principal | Ext. 1153

July 22, 2020

Dear Lakeview Families, Students, and Staff,

I would like to thank you for your time in completing the back to school survey in early June. Your responses gave us insight as we began planning for the different scenarios in the fall of 2020 as required by the Minnesota Department of Education. We have been meeting regularly since the last week in May with the goal of creating a safe re-entry to school for all our students and staff.

Overwhelmingly, parents of students in grades PreK-12 believed that In-person Learning provided the best quality for the students as compared to Distance Learning or a Hybrid model (part-time in school). Parents were also concerned about the mental health of their students as a result of Distance Learning. A large majority of parents (93%) plan to send their students back in person to the school facility for learning in the fall and 71% of parents reported that they would be willing to transport their children to and from school daily if needed.

Using this data, we formulated draft plans that were shared with the Board of Education at its July 20 meeting. The Minnesota Department of Education will inform schools of how they are to reopen (Distance Learning, Hybrid Learning, or In-Person Learning) during the week of July 27. Aside from an order of Distance Learning, the Lakeview Public Schools are planning to bring all students and staff back to the facility in the fall. Under the Hybrid Learning model or the In-Person Learning model, our school facility is large enough to meet all the capacity guidelines by the Minnesota Department of Education, which will allow all students who want to attend in person, the ability to do so.

We also want you to know that Distance Learning does remain an option for your student. If you don't feel comfortable sending them back to school in the fall or if there are medical reasons why they cannot attend please reach out to Mrs. Frie and/or Mr. Hanson to get more information on the Distance Learning plan that is included in our Lakeview Reopening Plan. Our goal is to make sure that a student who is in Distance Learning has access to the same instruction and rigorous work as a student who is attending in person.

The Lakeview School District will communicate details of our reopening plan within one week of learning how we are to open this fall from the Minnesota Department of Education. We will also email a form out to families within five days after we communicate our specific reopening plans to you. This form will allow you to choose In-person Learning or Distance Learning and will also ask you details around transportation and food service. If we start in Hybrid Learning, we will most likely need your assistance in transporting students to school as bus capacities are drastically reduced in this scenario.

The safety of our students and staff is our number one priority in reopening, which means school will look very different this fall. The Lakeview School facility will have modified classrooms, enhanced safety



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protocols, and revised procedures for all to follow in accordance with the guidance issued by the Minnesota Department of Health, Governor, and Minnesota Department of Education. Planning and reopening continues to be flexible and fluid as guidance changes on a regular basis. This planning and process is new to all of us and has been very challenging, but know we care very deeply about each student, staff member, family member, and members of our community. In the coming weeks, we will be finalizing our plans and keeping you informed on the progress of our work. Thank you for your support of the school district, understanding of the guidelines and protocols we have to follow, and your ongoing commitment to education. Go Lakers!

Sincerely,

Chris Fenske, Superintendent