



September 18, 2020

Tarwater Families,

We had a fantastic week with many of our Kindergarten, First, and Second Grade students on campus. I realized this week that our children are far more capable than we give them credit for sometimes. When we are prepared and have expectations, children will rise to the occasion. This week children learned, played on the playground, had lunch in the cafeteria, and did all of those “normal” things with new procedures in place for mitigating exposure. I could not be prouder of how they simply adjusted without complaint. I think I speak for us all when I say we had a great week.

We are ready and excited for the arrival of more students to campus next week. I said it last week, but it is worth repeating, please know that we are focused as a school staff in doing our very best to keep your child’s safety as our number one priority. I know many of you will continue to learn from a distance, and we respect that decision whole-heartedly and appreciate how connected you have stayed with us. While we are all viewing this journey from different perspectives, I am proud of the fact that our community respects the view that other’s hold, and is committed to doing what is best for their own family.

If you have not yet read my letter regarding our reopening plan, and watched my videos, please do so. They are all on our website. We will be handling arrival, dismissal, lunch, and recess quite differently and it will be important that you and your child know what to expect.

A few last minute reminders include:

- Make sure your child has a few face coverings. Practice wearing them. It does take some getting used to, and they will be required, so if your child is not used to wearing one, please practice.
- Practice hand washing. Make sure those habits are strong even without you there reminding.
- Purchase a water bottle and label it with your child’s name. No drinking fountains are open, but we do have filtered water bottle fillers.
- Talk to your child about social distancing. For many children, it will be the first time being around other children. Help them understand why and how we stay distanced.
- Practice going to bed early, eating breakfast early, and not snacking throughout the day. Some of our at home habits will have to be altered. Think about adjustments your child may need to make.
- Breakfast and lunch is free for every child through December. Everyone will be offered breakfast. Please do not hesitate to take advantage of this. There is no limit to how many we serve.
- Please communicate with your child’s teacher how your child will get home and please do everything you can to not change that plan. Our parent pick up line is long, but we have a safe system in place. I thank you in advance for your patience.

Toros *Together*

Finally, I would like to thank our PTO for helping us find sponsors for our Teacher and Staff boost on Wednesday – Guacamole Day! Staff is working so hard right now that we wanted to find something fun to celebrate mid-week. Guacamole Day fit perfectly. Thank you to Garcias, Ghettyo Taco, Morenos, and Chipotle for the chips and guacamole and to our PTO for their help and support.

Have a great weekend and stay safe.

Sincerely,

Diane Hale

Diane Hale, Principal