

Meade School District Families,

We hope that you are having a great summer. With your help and cooperation, we are going to have an excellent school year. As we prepare for the 2020-21 school year, we want to communicate significant information relative to how school will look this year.

Currently, we are planning to open doors on September 8th. Our hope is to keep school “in the building” through a shared commitment from students, teachers, families, and staff by preventing the spread of COVID-19.

The South Dakota Dept. of Education and South Dakota Dept. of Health, have developed guidance for the opening of school with all students having the opportunity to attend on a regular schedule. However, we realize as the state relaxes restrictions, the risk of infection and the corresponding need to follow health guidelines increases.

The following guidelines are intended to provide protection for our employees, students, and community. **What we will do as school and district personnel:**

- Mitigate risk/spread by encouraging physical distancing, proper hand hygiene, sanitization, wearing masks, staggering class start and release times, hallway flow adjustments, adjusting lunch times and seating, recess modifications and spacing of students in common areas.
- Be aware of illness/symptoms in the student body and contact a student’s family immediately if a student exhibits symptoms.
- Monitor positive COVID-19 cases and its spread in Meade School District and follow — as we would with any community health concern — the recommendation of health department officials regarding school closures, modified school schedules or in-school adjustments.
- Continue to refine our digital curriculum to meet the needs of distance learning as it arises.
- Modify our method of delivery, however necessary, to ensure the health and well-being of students and staff.
- Keep you informed

What you can do:

- Understand that these guidelines are determined by health, educational and civic professionals commissioned to care for your child, considering the physical environment, time spent in school, and the potential risk to the health of our students, staff and families.

- Keep your child home if they have a fever, cough, cold or flu symptoms, and have them return only when these symptoms have subsided. (72 hours)
- Create a family plan in case your child is sent home from school/bus due to high temperature or is required to be quarantined or isolated. Read more at: DOE
- Create a family plan in the event schools close for a 14-day quarantine due to a case (s) within the Meade School District. Read more at: DOE
- Talk to your child about changes they may notice at school, reinforcing that these measures are in place to preserve their health, and the health of those around them.
- Send your child to school with a mask and encourage them to wear it.
- As always, please reinforce the importance of respecting the authority of teachers and staff to maintain order in the classroom, the hallway, and other campus areas.
- Prepare as much as possible to adapt to change. As evidenced this past spring, things evolve quickly, and schedule modifications and/or closures may be unavoidable.
- Recognize you can choose traditional face-to-face school or online options and, as always, we are happy to assist you with your child's educational needs.
- Know that you as a guardian and parent have the right to keep your child home at any time as you assess risk as it relates to your family.

Also, if you would like your child — for any reason — to not attend school in a traditional on- campus setting, the Meade School District has the following options available to parents. **OPTION A:**

- Traditional face-to-face instruction

OPTION B:

- Meade School District Virtual K-12 option- Web based curriculum that will meet SD curriculum content standards, supported by certified teachers, provide rigor with high expectations.
- On-line survey available through July 24th - Results for planning purposes.
- Recommended that students sign up for a minimum of a 9-week period with the expectation that students will be participating in virtual education for the entire school year.
- Meade School District Virtual K-12 option is not the same as a possible distant learning requirement for the district as a result of an increase in COVID 19 cases within the district.

Overall, circumstances will likely vary from school to school and program to program, each with unique challenges and solutions. Specific school details will be communicated to you directly by the administration of the school your child attends.

Please read it thoroughly, and please know we are making every effort to provide the best educational experience possible. We ask for your support through this process.

Thank you,

Meade School District 46-1