

Subject:

Welcome to the 2020-21 School Year

(sent with translation 8.24.20)

Email:

Urbandale CSD Families,

On behalf of the Urbandale Community School District, I'd like to welcome you to the 2020-2021 school year. While we are collectively faced with the challenges of operating within a global pandemic, I am confident that our teachers and staff are prepared to support our students' social, emotional, and academic needs throughout this school year. I'd like to share several important dates and reminders in anticipation of welcoming students for the first day of school.

Important Dates:

- **Tuesday, August 25** – Remote Classroom (online) students first day of school.
- **Tuesday, August 25** – Track A “Team J-Hawk” will begin in-person instruction (first day of school). Team J-Hawk attends in person on Tuesday/Thursday.
- **Wednesday, August 26** – Track B “Team U” will begin in-person instruction on Wednesday, August 26 (first day of school). Team U attends in person on Wednesday/Friday. (Note: "Team U" will NOT attend online instruction on August 25; the first day of school for "Team U" is Wednesday, August 26 when students attend in-person instruction.)
- **Mondays alternate** - Track “A” one week; Track “B” the next week. Here is a [link that shows the schedule for each Monday](#). Mondays are a late start for K-8.
- **Hybrid Calendar** for the traditional school year.

In order to address safety concerns, the district will be implementing numerous mitigation strategies in order to keep our students and staff as safe as possible. As a reminder, **all Urbandale CSD staff, K-12 students, vendors, visitors, and spectators are required to wear a cloth face mask (2-ply) while in district buildings and when riding a school bus.** Cloth face masks are recommended for preschool students, but not required.

If/when we have a positive COVID-19 case in a school building, we will notify all families and staff in that building. If your student was considered to be in close contact with the individual who tested positive, you will be notified directly and provided information on mitigation strategies.

In addition, it is very important for parents and guardians to monitor your child's health including their temperature. If your child has a temperature of 100.4 or higher, we ask that you keep your

child home, observe for symptoms, and follow up with your healthcare provider. If your child is ill and not attending school that day, we request you contact your school nurse, or your school's attendance line, to keep us informed of the symptoms your child is experiencing. Even if your child is not attending school in-person on any given day, it is important to let your school nurse/attendance line know if your child will be absent. This will help us to monitor the health of our student body in order to respond accordingly. (Note: symptoms often associated with COVID-19 include: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, headache, body aches, generalized aching, nasal congestion, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, poor appetite.) Please visit our [Return To Learn site](#) for more detailed information about health, safety, and instruction.

Shifting our thoughts briefly to other things happening in the district, the UHS Fitness Center was completed this past summer. The remodeled entrances at UHS and Webster are near completion and the new Olmsted Elementary project has been seeing great progress. Provided we can stay on schedule, the new Olmsted will open its doors to welcome students and staff for the start of the 2021-22 school year.

We look forward to a productive partnership with you to ensure our students find success at school. As partners, we share the responsibility for our children's success and will do our very best to ensure all students feel safe, valued, cared for, and ready to learn.

Make it the best year possible!

Steve Bass

Superintendent
Urbandale CSD