



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back to the school year 2020-21. As you may agree, this year will be different, presenting many challenges that we have never dealt with before and have made us change the way we conduct businesses. We are happy and proud that we are able to provide a variety of educational options to meet the needs of our community under the Covid-19 environment. We are one of the few schools in the state that offer in-person education on a daily basis.

We adjusted to this new normal as quickly as possible to minimize the disruption to our students and families. Guided by the state regulations, we ran a survey earlier in the summer to give our parents voice to indicate their choice of education setting that they wish for their child(ren). As a result, we opened our door to almost 500 students attending our schools in-person, while more than 600 students are learning remotely on a daily basis. Regardless of the option that our parents have chosen, the safety of our students and staff is the primary consideration in anything we do at the school. We went above and beyond the state's expectations to ensure a safe and nurturing environment for our students and staff.

While we as an entire community enjoy such an environment, it is a shared responsibility to maintain it that way. It is a social responsibility and moral obligation on all of us to work together to accomplish it. Therefore, in addition to supporting your child beyond the school just like every year before, we urge you to consider taking specific actions as follows:

1. Please consider a flu shot for your child. Per the experts' statement, the flu season will kick-in in November, and the usual flu has the same or similar symptoms as Covid-19. As part of the Department of Health guidance, students who show Covid-19 symptoms are excluded from in-person education until they are symptom-free. Additionally, we strongly suggest that students showing symptoms get

tested for Covid-19. Therefore, the flu shot will not only minimize the disruption in your child's education but will reduce the need for frequent Covid-19 testing.

2. Be mindful of the wellbeing of your child and others. If your child shows a symptom, please keep your child at home. We made important changes in our attendance policy to eliminate unintended consequences due to absences. Per our new policy, students who complete the work posted on the Google Classroom by 3:15 pm on the same day will be marked "present remotely" when staying home due to symptoms or sickness. Further information on the updated attendance policy is included in this newsletter.

Finally, even under the unusual Covid-19 conditions, we will continue to support our students' social and emotional growth. Racial injustice continues to be a substantial matter to deal with in our country. We started a "Racial Equity Committee" last year to increase awareness of contemporary issues facing our community and to take meaningful and impactful actions. We will continue to make progress in this area in the coming days. I conclude my remark in this issue with a friendly reminder: Please vote as it is a civic duty and constitutional right. Happy voting!

Dr. Namik Sercan
Chief Education Officer

IMPORTANT DATES

- 10/5 - 10/8 MAPS Testing
- 10/5 - 10/9 Week of Respect **Friday, 10/9** Wear blue shirt
- Tuesday, 10/13** PTSO Meeting - Virtual, 7pm
- Wednesday, 10/14** Official PSAT, for grades 10&11
- Thursday, 10/15** Parent-Teacher Conferences
(No School for Students)
- Friday, 10/16** Teacher In-Service Day
(No School for Students)
- Monday, 10/19** School Closed
- Wednesday, 10/21** PSAT for 8th grade
- Wednesday, 10/28** PSAT for 9th grade
- Friday, 10/30** Dress Down Day/Fall Celebration Dress-Up