

Loomis Patrons

I hope this letter finds everyone enjoying the summer but looking forward to another school year at Loomis Public School. To say the least, the 2019-20 school year was very unusual and Loomis Public School looks forward to a new and fresh beginning with the upcoming school year of 2020-21.

A few months ago we used social media and our newsletter to introduce everyone to our new 2020-21 staff. I would like to remind everybody of our new staff and ask that you introduce yourself to them. New staff members are; Lindsay Palmer 3rd Grade, Shelby Anderson 5th Grade, Shennon Helms Spanish, Ashley Stutzman 7-8 English and Clinton Anderson 9-12 Science. We are very excited to work with all our new staff so please take a moment to make them feel welcome.

There are some important dates that I would like to point out. On August 10 we will have iPad Deployment and Drug Policy signatures for grades 10-11-12 at 6:30. (Parents must attend) On August 11 we will have iPad and Drug Policy signatures for 9th grade and 7-8th orientation at 6:30. (Parents must attend) The students first day of school will be Thursday, August 12th with a 1:50 dismissal. Pre-School will begin on August 26th. September 15th & 16th is parent/teacher conferences. The Loomis "It's All About the Beef " is continuing to supply local beef for the school. Each month we grill hamburgers for the students. If you are interested in volunteering or donating please contact Sam Dunn @ 876-2111. **Graduation** is set for May 8, at 5:00 PM for the class of 2021. .

As we all know COVID 19 has changed many of our lives and here at school we will make some basic changes as well but will strive to be normal and continue to be safe. Please see the final pages of this letter to answer some basic questions you may have concerning coming back to school procedures.

I hope everyone enjoys the remaining days of your summer. I know we are looking forward to another great year at Loomis Public School. Stop in anytime to take a look at some of our new facility changes.

Sam Dunn

Superintendent

Loomis Public School

Plan: Loomis Public School will be referencing the Re-Opening Plans provided by Nebraska Rural Community School Association (NRCSA) as our guide. This 30-page document can be found on our school website. This plan includes guidelines or recommendations for us to follow if needed. It was written in collaboration with rural superintendents throughout the state, and I feel it relates better to our situation here in Loomis instead of other documents you may have seen. I will assess what is best for our district on a daily basis. Decisions will be made and communication will follow shortly thereafter.

Two Rivers: I'm requesting that families get in the habit of checking the Risk Dial provided by Two Rivers Health Department at <https://trphd.org>. The dial is located at the top of the page and rotates thru with other information needed for daily operations. This dial is updated weekly (Thursdays), it covers the entire Two Rivers Region, and Loomis Public School will use this dial as a level of concern for our school. However, keep in mind that the dial is not Loomis specific but rather regional. The dial will inform us if our risk level is low, moderate, elevated, or pandemic. Obviously, school decisions will be made based off of the risk level.

Disinfecting Procedures: The entire building will be disinfected daily during the evening hours. When the Two Rivers Health Department dial indicates that our risk is at a higher level we will take extra precautions and disinfect during the day as well. The district purchased 5 disinfecting fogger machines that many hospitals use and we will use these daily in all areas of the school. I'm also requesting along with our usual school supply list that parent send hand sanitizer with their child for personal use. We have received gallons of sanitizer from the State so students can refill their small bottle when needed. Also, please send some Clorox wipes for personal use such as desks, lockers, books, etc. These have been difficult to get in large supply so your assistance if possible will be greatly appreciated.

Masks: At this time masks are **optional** for all adults, students, and visitors. If our situation should change and schools receive the directive to wear masks from the commissioner of education or Governor Ricketts we will. I believe Loomis Public School offers a very safe learning environment and we will take the necessary steps to continue to do so. If this should change, we will communicate with everyone.

Social Distancing: We will practice social distancing at all times when possible. When normal procedures allow us to be six feet apart, we will. However, with that being said, there will be times when the six-foot guideline will not be a reality. Some of our class size numbers are larger and that six-foot guideline may not be possible at all times. We will arrange our furniture so social distancing can be practiced to the best of our ability due to the circumstances. We will practice social distancing when in line, on the bus, in large group settings by class, and lunch procedures. Once again, I believe we offer a safe environment and will continue to do so. Our students will respect other individuals personal space.

Student Temperatures: If possible, I would like everyone to take your child's temperature at home in the mornings to begin the daily evaluation process. If your child has an elevated temperature or shows symptoms of being ill, they need to stay home. We are all guilty of going to work sometimes when not feeling well. I'm hoping families re-think that process during this time and change our mindset concerning illness. Students reporting directly to school will still be greeted by school personnel however, we will get student temps outside or as they enter the building. Any temperatures **100.4 degrees** or above will result in the student being sent to the office for a cool down, we will then re-check their temp and make decisions after the second temperature check. Parents will be notified of both temperature checks and if the temp stays elevated the student will be sent home and parents need to

make arrangements to pick up their child as soon as possible. It is not safe leaving a sick child in the office at school for a prolonged period of time exposing the rest of the school population.

Busing: Bus students will get their temps taken before getting on the bus. We will practice **social distancing** by sitting 1 to a seat and zig/zagging throughout the bus. Immediate family members may sit together on the bus, but not with other students. The school busses will also be disinfected daily and while the weather is nice the windows will be open to allow for ventilation. Due to the close quarters of a school bus I highly encourage that masks be in use. *The bus driver will have some available for use but I would encourage you to purchase your own for daily use. Unfortunately, due to the COVID 19 we will have limited seating.* If this bussing plan does not meet your expectations parents may want to consider transporting your students to school daily. The bussing plan will be sent out as usual closer to school starting. Students that have an elevated temp of 100.4 or higher will be sent back into the house and the bus will depart to their next stop. Drivers have a schedule to keep and cannot wait for a 2nd temperature check.

Student drop off/pick up: If possible, I would like parents to delay dropping off students in the morning until 7:40 AM. Due to COVID I am requesting that parents do not enter the building either before or after school. The elementary staff will be outside in the morning to assist the younger students to find their teacher the first couple of days. For the end of day pickup please have an agreed upon area to park or you are welcome to come to the front door area to meet your child but please remain outside at this time. Normally, when students enter the building the students meet in the gym. We will continue this procedure. However, staff will still supervise these areas but will have students sit by class using the six-foot social distancing to help prevent intermingling with students of different grade levels. Remember, we will be getting temperatures every day from every student in the front door area.

Hygiene: We will schedule regular bathroom breaks that will include handwashing multiple times daily. As mentioned before we will also Clorox wipe surfaces that are touched frequently. Our staff will educate the students on quality hygiene measures such as covering your mouth when coughing, respecting personal space, etc. Sanitizer will be readily available throughout the school building for use by everyone. I have requested that each student bring their own water bottle that individuals can fill at the drinking fountains filler stations. Finally, as I mentioned before the building will be disinfected daily.

Breakfast/Lunch: Breakfast will be grab and go bags with individual wrapped items for the students to pick up. We will serve lunch the old fashioned way, the staff will serve from behind the window wearing face shields. Student choice will be limited and there will be no self-serve soup & salad bar at this time. Salad will be available at the end of the serving station but must be served by kitchen staff. Students will not handle the trays until all food is served. Staff will assist with the milk cartons and cups of water will be available for students that do not drink milk. We will practice social distancing in the lunchroom area and extra seating will be available in the old gym.

Academics: I strongly prefer face to face education for all students. School will be in session until the Two Rivers dial reaches a dangerous level or I receive a directive from either the Department of Education or the governor. Everybody needs to be aware that there is a chance that we may have to implement a hybrid system where both face to face and online learning could take place. Staff will be instructed to prepare using both methods “just in case” we are forced to close for a period of time during the 2020-21 school year. My best advice is to be prepared for anything this pandemic could possibly throw at us. Rest assured we will adjust and make the best out of any situation.

Conclusion: I hope this letter answers some of the questions you may have at this time. I will have a more detailed plan available for board approval at our August board meeting. This plan will have adjustments we will consider with the level of concern as indicated by the Two Rivers Health Department dial. After approval, I will post this plan on our website and of course be available for any questions you may have. This is a difficult time for everyone! We have to have open lines of communication throughout the community of Loomis. One of the advantages of being part of a small community and a small school is that we can adapt to overcome individual challenges. Please communicate whatever challenges your family may be experiencing and together we will make every attempt to come up with a solution. We are very lucky to have such a dedicated staff that is willing to work with your child through any mode of learning.

Sincerely,

Sam Dunn

Superintendent