

July 30, 2020

Dear Ellison Park Parents and Community,

Welcome Back! I trust you are enjoying the summer break and hope your family is staying safe and healthy.

As you are all aware, we are in the middle of a global pandemic and the numbers in our state are increasing. The announcement this week to minimize the number of people in the building was a direct result of the health crisis. As soon as it is safe, we will go back to having everyone in the building together. We know this will impact many families. This was not the most popular decision, but it was the safe decision. This is a temporary health crisis response. We will go back to a normal schedule as soon as it is safe.

All summer long, we have been discussing how to handle Back to School with the most care. Given our current conditions, Back to School Morning will be held in two parts. The first part will be presented virtually. Watch for communication from your child's teacher explaining grade level expectations and procedures for the upcoming school year. Your teacher will also be sending a video showing the classroom set-up and needed items to help make the start of school successful. The second part will be an open house (see below for times based on last name) so your child will be able to connect with their teacher and room in person.

**For now, please be aware of the following dates:**

**August 7: Access Encore and your new teacher for 2020-2021**

Access MyDSD to read and sign all forms necessary to start the school year. Just a friendly reminder to sign up for Smiths Rewards and Amazon Smiles to help our school.

**August 19 and 20<sup>th</sup>: Solo Selfie at School**

This would be a good time to take your picture in front of the school since you will not have that opportunity on the first day of school. There will be balloons and a banner to stand in front of. On the first day of school we will be vigilant about physical distancing as a part of our drop-off procedure.

## **August 20: Teacher Virtual Presentations**

These presentations will be sent out from your student's teacher. Check your email.

## **August 24-28: Kindergarten Kick-off**

Kindergarten testing will take place on the first week of school so there will be no class-time until Monday, August 31. If you have a kindergartener, please call the school during office hours on Wednesdays, or go to myDSD, to schedule a 10-minute appointment to meet your teacher and see the classroom. In addition, you will need to schedule a time on myDSD for your child to come to the school and complete the KEEP TEST.

**August 24: Back to School Morning Open House 9:30-11:45**

**Staggered Times: A-H @9:30, I-P @10:15, Q-Z @11:00**

This year Back to School Morning will have a virtual video component as well as an opportunity for families to come to the classroom to meet the teacher. We ask that you come in through the front doors, wear your mask, sign in at the tables, only come with your Ellison Park students, physically distance, come during your time and do not linger in the building.

**August 25: First Day of School! (B-Day students — last name begins with L-Z)**

**DROP OFF TIMES ARE BY LAST NAME: L-O @8:30, P-S @8:40, T-Z @8:50**

**August 26: First Day of School! (A-Day students — last name begins with A-K)**

**DROP OFF TIMES ARE BY LAST NAME: A-C @8:30, D-G @8:40, H-K @8:50**

**All students will enter through the front doors on their opening day only.**

On the first day of school, we are celebrating your child as they come in through the front doors. Red carpet, banners, balloons, and music. Staff Members will be there helping to guide students to their classrooms. In an effort to follow the Big 5 and keep our students safe and healthy, we ask that parents do not enter the building.

**We will be serving lunch every day.** Remote day lunches will be grab and go at the main door.

We realize things are different and constantly changing. It is our goal to keep communication strong and direct. Please find us on Facebook.

I have attached our school's plan for the opening of the 2020-2021 school year. If you have any questions at all, please email me.

We are fortunate to be welcoming our students back to school, and we appreciate our teachers who have dedicated their summer to preparing for this coming year. We are looking forward to seeing all of our Ellison kids!

Time has a wonderful way of showing us what really matters most.

Sincerely,

David G. Pendergast  
Principal Ellison Park