



Good afternoon NKC families,

COVID-19 has certainly provided a great deal of challenge, stress and uncertainty for schools across our country. As we look forward to our students' return this fall, we know this year will look differently than any we have experienced before. This uncertainty has made communication difficult, and nearly impossible at times, in providing a consistent message as information changes daily. Our goal is always to share what we know, when we know it.

I would like to thank our Board of Education for taking action to delay the start of the 2020-2021 school year until Tuesday, September 8. This decision was necessary due to recommendations from our mayor and Kansas City's top health officials. We will continue to follow the guidance of our local health departments to mitigate risk for the well-being of our school community. I realize that this news may be frustrating to some families and staff members. My commitment to you is that all 3,600 employees in NKC Schools will work to our fullest extent to support your children throughout our community.

So, what comes next for our students and families?

- The school year will begin on Tuesday, September 8.
- An extension of the July 31 date for selecting between virtual or face-to-face options will be provided. Based on parent feedback, we will be clarifying and improving online opportunities, with increased connection to our face-to-face classrooms. More information about these options will be out early next week. Stay tuned.
- If our schools were to reopen today, Dr. Rex Archer of the Kansas City Health Department and Gary Zaborac of Clay County Health Department agree that the following face-to-face options for students would be acceptable:
 - Pre-K and elementary students selecting the face-to-face option would attend five days per week.
 - Students in grades 6-12 will have a hybrid option to attend face-to-face. Each student will attend in-person two days, then learn virtually three days. Wednesdays will serve as a day for deep cleaning of school buildings and for our teachers to collaborate, plan, and offer additional feedback to students.
- If Kansas City and/or Clay County, or any individual school community, sees a spike in COVID-19 cases, our face-to-face options would be required to transition to virtual. We will continue to monitor data in partnership with local health officials over the next month to make the best decisions for our families.
- Meal service for students will continue. Updates will be provided on our website as details become available.

I'd just like to end by saying that we have received an enormous amount of input from our parents, students, staff members and community. Our Board of Education has always been committed to the success and safety of our kids. Future challenges will not sway us from our mission. I ask for your continued support.

Dr. Dan Clemens, Superintendent of Schools