



"Our vision is educational excellence in knowledge, skills, and character with strong parent-teacher-student partnerships."

Dear Wolverines,

Thank you for your patience as I gathered some additional details about the start of the school year. There are several things that I need to share with you, and I will do my best to be clear and concise.

You will receive an email from your student's teacher next week, prior to August 7. This introductory letter will provide you with many important details about the upcoming year and specific information about their classroom and grade level. Please be on the lookout for that and let me know if you have not received anything by the 7<sup>th</sup>. There have been some issues with our email program this summer and I don't want anyone to get inadvertently missed!

### **What is the Traut schedule for August 24 – September 4?**

8:25-12:05

Students may be dropped off at 8:15 and will go directly to class. Students will not line up outside their classroom doors. Rather, they will go straight into the building. Please do not drop students off before 8:15.

***Parents are not allowed to come into the building or walk students to their classrooms.*** I hope you know how much it pains me to write that! There will be staff members throughout the blacktop and at the front and back of the building to help escort students to their rooms. Teachers will be in classrooms ready to greet students on the first day starting at 8:15. After the first day, teachers will be preparing for their school day and other staff will be in the classrooms to monitor and supervise students until 8:25.

I am crafting specific details about morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up and I will share those with you next week.

We will not eat lunch at school August 24-Sept. 4. Students will be dismissed at 12:05 and will need to eat at home or daycare.

We will have recess during the half-day schedule, but we will NOT have specials. Homeroom teachers will need all the available time to help establish routines and relationships during those first two weeks. Specials teachers will visit classrooms but will not host full lessons.

There will not be any virtual instruction from homeroom teachers between August 24 and Sept. 4. Teachers will meet with students in person each morning, Monday through Thursday, but will not host virtual teaching in the afternoon. Teachers will provide assignments for students to work on during their “off-campus” day (either Tuesday and Wednesday for Group A, or Wednesday and Friday for Group B) that will be related to the in-person work that was done the day prior.

### **Will my child have to wear a mask at school?**

YES. The expectations shared yesterday state that ALL students and staff must wear a mask at school. Originally, the verbiage stated that students would need a “face covering” which would allow for a face shield *rather than* a mask. That is NO LONGER THE CASE. All students will need to wear a mask.

There may be times during the day when a teacher is working with a student when it is critical for the teacher and student to be able to see each other’s mouths (phonics instruction, speech/language therapy, etc.) In these cases, teacher and student may wear a face shield and/or be separated by plexiglass table shields. Students will not share masks or face shields, and plexiglass surfaces will be sanitized between uses.

Parents are responsible for providing a face mask for their student(s).

Students will get face mask breaks throughout the day including outdoor P.E. classes and recess. Students may also request a mask break as needed: students will need to be at least 6 feet apart and either outside or in a well ventilated area.

We will have recess in a cohort model: students will only play with other students from their class. They can take their masks off for recess as long as they are not within 6 feet of each other.

Staff will be required to wear a mask over the nose and mouth unless they are at least 6 feet away. Teachers may provide instruction wearing a face shield but must remain 6 feet away from students.

### **How will lunch work?**

Lunch will not be served or eaten for the first two weeks (August 24 – Sept. 4).

Students will be eating with their class. As weather permits, we will eat outside. If it is inclement or exceedingly hot, students will eat in their classrooms. Desks will be sanitized before and after eating. All students will wash hands before eating lunch (or snack.)

Students who purchase lunch will have only cold options for the first 9 weeks of school. Those meals will be pre-plated or bagged (Grab-and-Go). Pick up will be staggered with social distancing and students will verbally say their PIN to kitchen staff rather than using the keypad.

### **What happens if someone in my child's class tests positive for COVID-19?**

If someone in your student's class tests positive for COVID, the Health Department will share next steps regarding quarantine, testing, etc.

It is likely that if one person from class tests positive, the whole class will quarantine for 14 days, including the teacher and any paras who were exposed. If teacher is not ill, he/she will teach remotely during the quarantine.

This is subject to change based on directives from the County, which we expect to get next week.

I do not have an answer regarding what we do if a sibling tests positive.

### **Handwashing and Hand Sanitizing**

Please plan to send your student with hand sanitizer. The district is purchasing portable sanitizing stations that will be located throughout the building.

If students are eating or using the bathroom: THEY MUST WASH THEIR HANDS AT THE SINK

Any other time students exit or enter the classroom: They will use hand sanitizer (first thing in the morning, after recess, after going with a paraprofessional, etc.)

We will establish a bathroom schedule so that only one classroom at a time in in the hallway and using the restrooms. Students are encouraged to use the bathroom at those regularly scheduled times. However, if a student does need to leave the classroom, they

must wear their mask and wash hands after. We will only send ONE student at a time if he/she is using the restroom outside the regular schedule.

**Other Health and Safety Items:**

- Parents may not come into classrooms.
  - If a parent needs to enter the building, they may come to the front office only.
  - We are encouraged to leave doors and windows open as long as there is an adult in the room.
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I can't think of a single thing that is more important to me than the well-being of our children. We are taking this charge very seriously and will do everything we can to make sure our community is as protected as possible.

As additional decisions are made and details are shared, I will get that information to you as quickly as I can. You can expect to hear from me regularly between now and August 24.

"Maturity, one discovers, has everything to do with the acceptance of 'not knowing.'" ~Mark Z. Danielewski, *House of Leaves*

I don't know about you, but if this is true, I am excessively mature these days!

I hope you are able to enjoy a beautiful weekend!

Dr. Kendall

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Dear Wolverines,

I apologize for the second email. I want to make sure I have been clear about what the first two weeks will "look like" within the classroom as well as at home.

Group A students will be on campus, 8:25-12:05 on Monday and Wednesday, August 24, 26, 31 and September 2. Teachers will provide assignments for students to complete at home on Tuesday and Thursday both weeks. No additional assignments will be provided for Friday and there will not be any virtual instruction.

Group B students will be on campus, 8:25-12:05 on Tuesday and Thursday, August 25, 27, and Sept. 1, and 3. Teachers will provide assignments for students to complete at home on Wednesday and Friday both weeks. No additional assignments will be provided for Monday and there will not be any virtual instruction.

After the first two weeks, students will get full instruction, 5 days a week, on campus.

Also, I wanted to share that we will spend some time getting students accustomed to using their laptops, logging in to Google Classroom and email, etc. as is appropriate for their grade level. We want to do this in the event we end up back in a virtual scenario at some point. However, students will be allowed to use paper and books as part of their instruction - it won't be all computers all the time. Our teachers are going to maximize every possible moment to make sure we are able to provide as much quality instruction as possible!

I hope this helps provide some additional clarity!

Dr. Kendall