



**September 25, 2020**

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

Dear Wolverines,

I hope you have had a good week. Life at Traut has been exceptionally busy as we prepare to see your beautiful children face to face very soon. I would like to take this opportunity to talk through how Traut will approach Phase 3 learning, why we have made the decisions we have made, and what this will look like for you and your students.

**Kindergarten through 2nd-grade** will begin in Phase 3 (A/B Grouping) on Monday, October 5. These students will return to our "normal" school schedule of 8:25-3:05 starting on October 5.

**3rd through 5th-grade** students will begin Phase 3 (A/B Grouping) on Monday, October 19. Between October 5 - 14, these students will continue with our remote schedule, starting at 9 am. On October 19, they will return to "normal" school hours of 8:25-3:05.

Phase 3 means that we will see students in the A group on Monday and Wednesday here on campus, and students in the B group on Tuesday and Thursday. There will not be any students on campus on Fridays.

### **What will Phase 3 look like for Traut?**

I need to begin by stating that each PSD elementary school has been allowed to determine their own schedule for Phase 3 instruction, particularly regarding what the "at-home" days

will look like. I have met with our staff and discussed at length what we believe we need to do to provide the best learning experience for our students. What we are doing may look different than what is happening at your neighborhood school, or what your friends in other buildings are doing.

I have heard from many, many parents about what they would like to see in a Phase 3 model, and I have taken that feedback seriously. I know that there is not a remote possibility of making everyone happy right now, as there are so many different opinions about what we should be doing. That said, we did not come to our conclusion lightly, and we do have consensus across our staff.

***We believe that we must maximize our opportunity to be with kids, in-person, as much as we possibly can.*** We do not know how long we will be in Phase 3, and we must capitalize on this opportunity to engage with students in a specific and meaningful way. We do not think it is tenable for teachers to navigate teaching students in a classroom and students on their computers at the same time. This split of attention is not beneficial to anyone. We want to have our full attention on the students who are with us and we believe we can accomplish more in one day in person than several days online. Furthermore, the technical issues have been significant for teachers and students, and we have decided that less online learning is better. We have seen evidence of students struggling with the online format, struggling with technology, and struggling to engage.

To that end, we will not be live-streaming class all day for those students who are at home.

Each day, teachers will have a morning meeting, Monday-Friday, from 8:30-9:00. The teacher will take attendance, and go over the plans for the day. Then, the students who are at home will be “dismissed” to work independently or meet with interventionists, IS teachers, ELD, etc. if needed throughout the day (this may include extension opportunities.) This will allow us to maintain our focus and attention of the students in front of us. This model absolutely relies on our parent partnership, and I am confident that our families will rise to the occasion.

During an “at-home” school day, students will check in with their teacher in the morning from 8:30-9:00. They will work on projects and assignments that they started the day before and practice/reinforce concepts they have already learned. We will be using our tutors and interventionists to meet with students during their at-home time, and this will happen in a one-on-one or small group format.

There will be variations by grade level, as our older students are able to accomplish more independently than our youngest students. Teachers will be in touch to share their specific grade-level models shortly.

Again, we did not come to this decision lightly and we weighed MANY different options. Speaking for myself, I do not believe that we should treat education as a Henry Ford assembly line in which we just speed up production in order to get through the required material. My staff has heard me say it until they are probably sick of hearing it: it does not matter what we GET THROUGH. What matters is what children are able to learn. Just because we have covered it does not mean a child has understood it, especially if we are rushing. Getting through content is not what teaching is about; it is not what we do at Traut.

### **What are you doing to keep my child safe at school?**

- Temperature checks will happen each morning and at lunchtime before students go to recess
- Upon entering class, all students will wash/sanitize their hands
- All classrooms will be ionized with an electrostatic sprayer nightly
- All bathrooms will be deep cleaned using new machines specialized for this purpose
- All high-touch surfaces will be repeatedly cleaned throughout the day
- Students will only have contact with their assigned cohort
- Minimal passage through the halls
- ALL staff and students are required to wear a face mask. (Students can take masks off for recess.)

For detailed protocols for students, please click [here](https://www.psdschools.org/psd2020-21/psdprotocolsCOVID19). You can also find more details here: <https://www.psdschools.org/psd2020-21/psdprotocolsCOVID19>

### **What will drop-off and pick-up look like?**

During morning drop-off, parents will not be able to park in the parking lot. All students will be dropped off from the drop-off lane. There will be staff members on duty to help students get out of the car and to help students find their classrooms. Students will enter the room immediately, rather than waiting in line outside. The teacher will check students' temperature upon entry and students will wash/sanitize their hands.

Parents must not get out of the car.

During the end of the day pick-up, we will be using a program called Drive-Line. Information is coming home to you about this program in your supplies from teachers today. You can also find a copy of the letter, [here](#). Each family will get 3 tags with an assigned number that will hang from your rearview mirror. These have been included in an envelope with the family letter. The tag will have a number printed on it which will be your family ID number. Students will be notified when you arrive and will leave their classroom through the outside door and walk to the front of the building. This will prevent the gathering of 200+ students at the front of the building at the end of each school day.

You can see a video of what the Drive-Line program looks like in action here: <https://charterapps.com/#howItWorks>

If your child will walk or ride a bike home, please inform your homeroom teacher.

### **What will happen at lunch?**

Students will eat lunch in their classroom or, weather permitting, outside. PLEASE make sure that if you pack a lunch, you are providing silverware and items that your child can open independently, without help. Teachers are not allowed to open food containers. We will not be able to heat up food items for your student.

Those who will be getting school lunch will place their order in the morning. Staff will deliver those meals to students in their classrooms. There will always be two lunches, and one will always be nut-free.

### **Will students get to go to recess?**

Students will have recess times throughout the day. They can take off their mask at recess. Students will only be able to play with students from their own class so that we can maintain a safe cohort model. We will have sections of the playground for each class and students will rotate through those sections so that they will have the opportunity to play in multiple areas throughout the week.

### **Will students still have specials (Art, Music, PE, Media)?**

Yes, students will have specials each day they are on campus. Specials teachers will be traveling to classrooms. They will not share supplies or instruments.

**What if our family is not comfortable returning to in-person learning at this time? Will Traut offer a 100% virtual option?**

Other than PSDV, elementary schools are not going to be able to offer a 100% virtual option. The only 100% virtual option is PSDV. Those who are interested in this option must complete a [Transfer Request](#), which is then submitted to Dr. Lambert, the Assistant Superintendent for elementary schools.

All students who enroll at PSDV do keep their position at Traut. You can choose to return in January 2021 or at the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year.

**SCHOOL PICTURES**

Please know that Skillman Photography will be at Traut on **October 26 and 27** for school pictures. They will offer make-ups in January and in their studio, by appointment.

Information about how to order online will be available soon!

**FUNDRAISING UPDATES**

**October Dine Out with Traut: Tuesday, October 6 at Mama Roni's**

It's pizza night! Help support our school through our second Dine Out With Traut event on Tuesday, October 6. MamaRoni's will give 15% of all proceeds to TCKS when you use the offer code **970**. You can order from 11:00 am-8:00 pm and from either Fort Collins location. For additional details, please click [here](#). Thank you for supporting Traut and a local business!

**10/12-10/25: Online Scholastic Book Fair**

Let's instill a love of reading this fall, while helping the TCKS library purchase new books! Books will be shipped directly to your home, and shipping is free on book purchases of \$25. For more information, please click [here](#).

Visit our online book fair to shop: <https://www.scholastic.com/bf/trautcoreknwldges>

## **TCKS Yearbooks**

Order your Traut yearbook today! Books are on sale for \$25 plus tax. Go to: <https://tr5.treering.com/create-account/1015953496174365>

If you order by September 30, you'll receive a 10% discount. Download the Treering Yearbooks app for Iphone for easy access. You'll be able to customize two pages for your student and share your photos with our yearbook team. The official order deadline is March 1. The yearbooks will be delivered to the school in May. This is for all TCKS students, including those enrolled in PSD Virtual. Would you like to help design the yearbook? Contact Lindsay Wahl for more information at [lindsaywahl@yahoo.com](mailto:lindsaywahl@yahoo.com)

## **King Soopers Community Rewards**

If you shop at King Soopers, you can link your "reward card" or "club card" to our school account. Each time you make a purchase, the money will be donated to Traut. Our goal for this year is to have **100 families** enrolled in this program. Right now, we have 60 families. Remember, grandparents, relatives, friends, ANYONE who shops at Kroger or King Soopers can support Traut through this fundraiser! It's easy to sign up:

<https://www.kingsoopers.com/i/community/community-rewards>

- Log into your King Sooper account and enter your reward card number.
- Once there, choose "Community Rewards."
- You should find "Traut Specials Teachers (TCKS)" under the drop-down menu. We are organization number MY616.
- Sorry, fuel purchases do not earn rewards for the school.
- Please note if you are signed up for another organization (sports or group) you can only donate to one so you could switch back and forth.

This is a fast, simple way to help out our school while grocery shopping. King Soopers sends a check to the school four times per year. All funds go to the Traut Wolverine Fund. For more information, you can visit <https://tckspab.org/fundraising/> Thank you for supporting our school!

## **Bring Your Morning Fresh Milk Caps Every Friday!**

We'll have a bin by the front doors of TCKS for your milk caps every Friday afternoon. Traut participates in the Morning Fresh Dairy "caps4cash" program. It's a great way to support our community and school. Drop off your rinsed milk caps into the amazing

collection bin made by a Traut graduate, Thad Walsh. Each cap is worth \$.05 for our school.

### **Message from PAB (Parent Advisory Board)**

You received an email from our PAB earlier today. Thank you to our PAB President, Amy Hloucal, for sharing that important perspective with us. If you did not have an opportunity to read that message, you can find a copy [here](#).

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“Light precedes every transition. Whether at the end of a tunnel, through a crack in the door, or the flash of an idea, it is always there, heralding a new beginning.”

— **Teresa Tsalaky**

So here we are, at another transition point. Next week will be the last week we will be in 100% remote learning, at least for now. Then we start a new phase with our youngest students. That, of course, will be followed by our intermediate scholars.

The beginning of the school year is always exciting, but I am not sure we've ever had one that has been exciting in this way. Transitions seem to stir up all sorts of emotions, from fear to joy to frustration. We have had lots of transitions in this school year and I anticipate we have not seen the last of them. As a planner by nature, this expectation of nimbleness is hard for me. I see that it is also hard for my own children. Maybe you have seen the same thing in your home with your students. "When will we just go back to normal, mom?" We just don't know...

Here's what I do know: the staff in this building are simply amazing. They have run, head-first, into each change that has been thrown at us. They have put students at the front of their thinking each day. Despite the difficulties, they press forward and continue to think well into the future, even when we are not 100% sure what that will look like, week by week. They are exceptional human beings and I am proud to work with each of them!

I am excited to see your children. I can't wait to connect with them in person and look them in the eye. That's the light in this transition for me.

I hope you enjoy a beautiful weekend with friends and family!

Dr. Kendall