

September 12, 2020

They're baaaaaaaack!!! Another exciting school year is underway as we welcomed back staff and students over the last few weeks; the sense of renewal and excitement is overwhelming and the positivity is like no other year.

The energy and buzz among our staff and students could probably be felt a mile away as classes began on September 1st. Staff members could be seen in the hallways meeting and greeting students, smiling and making it clear that they love what they do and that they are excited to be back working with our students.

During the first week of school it was already easy to see that teachers are planning exciting and engaging lessons, teaming together to talk about how to meet student needs and supporting one another in a variety of ways. Great job staff!

Teachers are reporting that our students are doing a great job wearing their masks, taking their temperatures, staying spaced out as best as possible and washing their hands often. All of us are doing the very best that we can. Great job students!

Our Covid-19 procedural and communication plans appear to be working, as we have been able to work with families that have children that need to be quarantined for a period of time. Our teachers and administrators are prepared to continue to provide instruction for those students that need to be out for a period of time; we are videotaping lessons, live streaming into our classrooms, using online platforms, etc. to make sure that all needs are met.

We also have a number of students (our own students as well as open enrolled students) that have decided to join our K-12 virtual school that was finalized this summer. We have also partnered with many school districts across the state, which allows students from these districts to enroll in our eSchool, yet remain a student in their home district.

This new, fully accredited virtual school has been a resounding success. In all, we have 327 students currently enrolled full time and hundreds of other students that are taking single courses. The staff members that worked so hard to put this together, as well as the 30+ teachers that facilitate the learning within this program, deserve a standing ovation! The community also deserves a standing ovation for approving the referendum question a few years back that allowed us to enhance our programming with opportunities like this.

We are also moving forward with our strategic plan, which will enhance our business partnerships, expand our trades and higher level classes and offerings, include more social and emotional health support for all and work toward financial stability. We are excited about all of these areas! Soon, I will share with you all of the progress that has been made in these areas, along with pictures of the upgrades.

Speaking of exciting, please join us in supporting our students during any of our fall sporting events; cross country, soccer, football, dance team, tennis, swimming, etc. are all happening now. The times of these events can all be found on our district website. This year will be a bit different however, as our fall sports and events have a limited capacity; you will need a ticket to get into the game/event. Tickets are only given to student participants at this time and unfortunately cannot be purchased at the gate. However, we are doing our very best to livestream as many events as possible, as well as provide a radio broadcast. I will share out the links to these items prior to the events. Thank you to our athletic department and technology department for making this happen!

A huge thank you goes out to Weber Oil of Kiel. At the BP gas station on Fremont Street, you will notice that a gas pump is decorated in Raider Purple. When anyone fills up with gasoline on the "Raider Pump," Weber Oil will give two cents back to the kids of the Kiel Schools. Thanks Weber Oil!

Finally, the brand new Performing Arts Center is moving along as planned. This 600 seat venue is scheduled to open around March 1st. As soon as the facility is fully enclosed, I will begin to offer tours to our community members. A “grand opening” show/s is already in the works, with more details to come.

Thank you to our community for the continued support, as we could not do this without you. We have so much to be thankful for!