



# **Knob Noster R-VIII School District**

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**Dr. Jerrod Wheeler**, Superintendent of Schools

**Mr. Michael Cohron**, Assistant Superintendent of Schools

**Dr. Angela Rolofson**, Director, Student Services

## **Our Mission Is Student Success**

Date: 2-3-2021

To: Knob Noster Public Schools Parents

From: Jerrod Wheeler

RE: Snow Day Make Up / Calendar Change / Update

Dear Parents:

I hope this email finds you well and that the first month of 2021 has been a good one for you and your family. I am writing with a few important updates that may be of interest to you.

### **President's Day Schedule Change**

As you are aware, the district recently missed a day of school due to weather. That day was originally scheduled to be made up on Friday, February 12, 2021. Given the unique nature of this year as it relates to Covid and considering the overall weather so far this season, we are delaying that make up until later in the year. Accordingly, school will not be in session for students on February 12. As a reminder, students are also out of school on February 15 for President's Day. We hope you and your family enjoy this four-day weekend as we pause as a nation in honor of our Presidents, both past and present. The snow makeup day will be announced later in the year.

### **COVID-19 Update**

I am pleased to report that our COVID status in the district has significantly improved following the Christmas Break. The district did not see a spike in cases following the break. Rather, we have seen a sharp decline in cases, especially among our students. That said, we have continued to see a moderate number of cases in our adult / employee populations. It has become clear that our plan is working, and as a result, our students are staying in school and in their classrooms. Thank you for your ongoing efforts, and please continue to reinforce our social distancing, masking, and handwashing protocols with your children.

As we move through flu season, please continue to keep students home when they are sick. We will do our best to separate flu and COVID issues, as we assess the overall health status of the district. Ultimately, we want to keep this year operating as close to normal as possible.

The district continues to monitor the rollout of vaccinations as it relates to our employees. We continue to keep our team updated on options available to them.

### **School Calendar for 2021-2022**

Draft calendars for the 2021-2022 school year will be available publicly in the next few weeks. The district is awaiting a decision from the state regarding school start date requirements this year. Once the district is

notified, we will finalize the calendar and notify you. The state's decision will result in subtle differences in how the year will begin in August 2021.

### **State Standardized Assessments**

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will require standardized testing this year for all students, including virtual students. As is the case in normal years, this data is important to our district in a variety of ways as we use it to inform decisions about our instructional programs and how we may better serve our students. Look for more information on this topic as we move through this semester. We will ask all teachers, parents and students to take these tests very seriously, so that we can make meaningful decisions about how best to support our students in the years ahead.

### **Summer School 2021**

The district is planning to offer a full in-person summer school in June 2021. Final dates will be announced following the winter season, as make up snow days may impact summer school dates. The district will also send a survey in the weeks ahead related to virtual options which may be offered for summer school 2021. We plan to again offer the same monetary attendance incentives (up to \$100 per student for perfect attendance) for Summer School 2021.

### **New Employees**

Hiring season is already off to the races in Knob Noster and we will continue to keep you updated on our new recruits via our various social media and news outlets. We currently have a number of vacancies posted on our website, including teachers, coaches, bus drivers, support staff, and administration. If you know of anyone who you believe would be a great addition to the Knob Noster Team, please send them our way! Working together, we will continue to build a great team to serve our students.

### **Winter Sports and Activities**

If you have not had a chance to do so, I encourage you to find time to catch an athletic event or activity to see our students in action this winter. Our Women's Basketball Team is undefeated at home this season and is tracking for a shot at a conference championship for the first time in 15 years. Likewise, our Panther Wrestlers are having another great season on the mats with several athletes eyeing a state championship. Also on the hardwood, our Men's Basketball Team is coming off three straight wins this week as they head into a bout with the Huskers Friday night.

This year more than ever, our students realize just how much extracurricular activities mean in our schools. Having our parents and community be a part of those experiences is very important. I want you to know that you are always welcome in Knob Noster Schools. But, as a reminder, we do have some safeguards in place. Please continue to socially distance and wear face coverings to protect yourself and others while in our schools. Also, we do have crowd restrictions, so reach out to friends or the school ahead of the event to secure a pass. We hope to see you here soon! Go Panthers!!

### **Super Bowl Sunday Flyover**

The big game will kick off this Sunday with the first of its kind flyover featuring all three components of the Air Force Global Strike Command's Bomber Trifecta! Leading the formation will be none other than the mighty B-2 of Whiteman AFB! On Super Bowl Sunday, we will once again send a BIG thank you to the families of Whiteman for all you do to preserve our freedoms and protect our country!

### **Wrap Up**

As always, we thank you for your ongoing partnership and communication as we navigate through this school year. You, our Knob Noster families and students, are doing a fantastic job of keeping the year calm and normal. We can't thank you enough for your continued support and cooperation. If we can be of assistance in any way, please do not hesitate to reach out to our team or to me.

v/r,

Jerrod Wheeler