

July 1, 2021

Dear CGESD Families,

It's July, and before you know it, we will all be back at school! I want to remind you that **our start date for the 2021-22 school year is July 26th**. Our school calendar aligns with our local high schools, and allows for longer spring and fall breaks. Please check out our website for more detailed calendar information.

We are excited to return to school with fewer COVID-19 related restrictions. Our plan continues to be based on the following tenets: 1) Keep the student experience at the center of all decisions, 2) Consider our district's vision and values before constraints, and 3) include and engage others to inform decisions. As we work to address unfinished learning and provide the tools and environment most conducive to helping our students learn, we will be maintaining many of our mitigation strategies aimed at ensuring clean and safe places of learning for our students and staff.

You may remember that last year we enhanced our touchpoint cleaning processes, installed Medify air purification systems in all of our classrooms, and enhanced our HVAC cleaning and air flow processes. Additionally, we changed some of our routines related to drop-off, pick-up, and other large group gatherings. These systems are important in helping us keep our schools as healthy as possible throughout the 2021-22 school year.

When we return on July 26th, masks will be optional. We recognize that the ability to hear one another and read facial expressions are integral to the teaching and learning process. We want to make sure our students have ample opportunities to engage in lessons that develop their skills as learners, leaders, and innovators. Face coverings were optional during our summer programming, and over the course of 4 weeks, I'm pleased to announce we had no confirmed cases of COVID-19 among students or staff in attendance.

I am proud of our students and staff as they persevered through such uncertainty over the past 15 months or so, and I am thrilled at the prospect of starting the new school year off fresh! We have a lot of fun things planned for the new year. We can't wait for you to join us!

Thank you for entrusting your children to our schools and district. Please look for information specific to your school in the coming weeks.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon!

JoEtta Gonzales
Superintendent