



RINGGOLD SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dear Ringgold Community,

I hope this correspondence finds you well and enjoying the opening weeks of Summer! I want to again congratulate our newest graduates, the class of 2021! The resilience they have shown throughout the pandemic was extraordinary and we are so proud to add their names to our very distinguished list of Ringgold Alumni.

In addition to congratulating our graduates, I wanted to take a moment to provide updates from the most recent School Board meeting which was held on June 23, 2021. During the meeting the Board approved the most recent revisions to the Health and Safety Plan. The plan is posted on our website and can be viewed by clicking [here](#). The Health and Safety Plan, continues to be examined, discussed and revised as needed by the Pandemic Team. The Pandemic Team includes Board representation, teacher, parent, community member, administrator, and facility representation. The team continues to meet every month (and usually twice monthly) to review the latest guidance, transmission rates, and any local, PDE, State or federal requirements. As discussed at the Board Meeting, students and staff will not be required to wear masks at the onset of the year, though both may opt to do so. I recognize that the Health and Safety Plan (HSP) contains language that has been the source of concern for some parents. That language indicates that the *“District will monitor the latest recommendations from the PDE, PADOH, and CDC and update their Health and Safety Plans as needed”*. Again, it is our goal to be as transparent as possible with our District, and while we fully intend that students and staff will not be required to wear masks, we also know that in a moment’s notice the Governor, the PDE, the PADOH can issue an order that must be considered and may contain requirements that supersede Board decision making. For that reason, the language has been kept in the plan.

During the meeting, the Board of Directors also approved an instructional plan template that indicates that the District fully plans to be in session, providing in-person instruction, for 182 student days. The District will continue to offer an asynchronous option for students through the Ringgold Cyber Academy. The virtual/live platform (Option #2) will still be offered on a limited basis for qualifying students. The Virtual/Live option will be changing significantly and students who elect to participate in the “Virtual/Live” platform will be sent a list of requirements for entry into the platform, and for continued participation in the platform. The requirements will be developed by a team of teachers and administrators and will be sent to parents in July along with an election form on which parents can specify their choice for schooling. That document will also outline our intention to use books, paper & pencils, playground equipment, etc. The District will of course continue to maintain the highest levels of cleaning possible as we continue to move forward.

~ Preparing students today for the challenges of tomorrow ~

I would ask for your patience as we continue to move forward with our planning for the 2021-2022 school year. Be assured, we will continue to send updates as we move through the summer and as we continue planning. While we are encouraged by the latest information on transmission rates and the most recent case counts, we also know that things can change quickly and want to be as prepared as possible for the unexpected events we have experienced over the past two years.

Again, we thank each of you for your efforts this school year. Our students, parents, teachers, support staff, administrators and every employee in the District has been a part of the ensuring that our students could experience the best of Ringgold, even in these challenging circumstances. Together, we accomplished things that other schools in the Commonwealth did not. It was not easy, but through planning and continued conversations, we found a way! We intend to continue the conversations and planning that are already occurring and pledge to keep you informed throughout the summer.

We thank you in advance for your continued support. Your support and the collaborative efforts that have been occurring over the past two years are one of the many pride points of the Ringgold School District. Collectively, we will continue to make Ringgold the very best that it can be.

Sincerely,

Randall Skrinjorich
Superintendent of Schools