



RINGGOLD SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dear Ringgold School District Family,

Having just completed the school year, I wanted to take a moment to congratulate our students on a strong finish to the 2019-2020 school year. Our students, as they always do, rose to the challenge of transitioning to online learning. Our attendance rates demonstrated that students remained engaged in their learning and were consistently attending virtual/online classes. For that, I want to congratulate you, along with our teachers, administrators and staff. We could not have done this without you.

While teachers, administrators and staff are busy grading final assessments, preparing report cards, assisting in the process that allows students to pick up their belongings, I wanted to take a moment to address the questions that many have regarding what school might look like for the 2020-2021 school year. While there are many uncertainties regarding the upcoming year, what I can tell you is that Ringgold School District will be preparing for multiple scenarios, with our ultimate goal of getting students back in the brick and mortar schools, as soon as we are permitted, and is safely possible.

We have received the initial round of State Guidance and we, like many other school leaders, have concerns about the ability of our school, and perhaps any school, to adhere to all the guidance/requirements that is being given. This guidance includes things like: wearing face masks, significant limits on how many students can ride on buses, taking the temperature of students and staff each day, limiting class size, developing schedules that cut class sizes, constant sanitizing, limiting the number of students moving in halls, having students eat in classrooms, and many more. Notwithstanding, we are closely reviewing the guidance provided by the PDE, as well as guidance from state and local health officials to be sure we are as prepared as possible. Our first and foremost goal is to ensure the safety of students and staff. This means making sure the procedures needed to run them in this new environment are in place for when reopen in person.

Returning to school is our pressing desire. While our administrators, teachers, students, parents and staff have done an amazing job of transitioning to online instruction, we also know that there are exciting things that happen inside the walls of our Ringgold Schools that simply cannot be replicated in a virtual environment. Those things are indeed what sets us apart from traditional 'cyber schools'.

~ Preparing students today for the challenges of tomorrow ~

While there are many uncertainties that we face in the months ahead, we can be sure that the Ringgold School District will continue to rise to the challenge of ensuring that our students receive the high quality education that enables our graduates to achieve their own vision of their future and leave our school system as proud Ringgold graduates. Speaking of graduates, this letter would not be complete without the expression of my sincere congratulations to the Class of 2020. This class will long be remembered because they embodied our “RAM Strong” motto and emerged as proud alumni of the Ringgold School District.

As we moved forward in this process, we will keep you informed.

Sincerely,

Randall Skrinjorich

Randall Skrinjorich
Acting Superintendent