

Pikeville Independent Schools

S. David Trimble, Superintendent

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Dr. Kevin Pugh, Board Member
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Panther Families:

Thank you for your participation in the virtual start to the 2020-2021 school year. I know it has looked different than many of us had hoped, but there could not have been a greater partnership between the team of Pikeville Independent and the families within this district. While it is not always easy, it is true that when we place our students in the center of all of our decisions, great things will consistently happen.

Having our students in a classroom with their teachers in a safe and healthy manner has always been our priority. We presented our original plan, but with some guidance that was given, that was delayed for a period of time. With that being said, we have continued our focus on local planning, having conversations with local medical leaders, and examining the issues around the state as schools have returned to in-person learning. Our community continues to have a low positivity rate, although it has had a slight growth over the past few weeks. Currently in our district we have no positive cases, with only a minimal amount of quarantines among our students and our team. We have also seen great success with the small group interactions that have occurred since our beginning on August 26th.

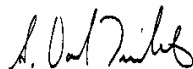
With all this in mind, and through collaboration with our local health department, local infectious disease physicians, our district team and our Board of Education, it is my recommendation that Pikeville Independent return to in-person instruction on **yellow** beginning **Monday, September 21st**. This yellow model is a hybrid model that we feel can allow our students and members of our team to safely interact as we teach not only content, but also new procedures as the result of the current pandemic. If you have questions as to whether your child is an A or a B, please visit the district website. We remind you that we do have a virtual learning experience that will continue to be an option for our families who are not comfortable returning to in-person at the moment. Our schedule will be as follows:

9/21	A In-Person	9/28	A In-Person	10/5	A In-Person
9/22	B In-Person	9/29	B In-Person	10/6	B In-Person
9/23	A In-Person	9/30	All Virtual	10/7	A In-Person
9/24	B In-Person	10/1	Fall Break	10/8	B In-Person
9/25	All Virtual	10/2	Fall Break	10/9	All Virtual

Further decisions about the week of October 12th will be released by October 2nd to prepare for childcare, classroom planning and other needs. We believe beginning on 9/21 gives us a greater amount of time prior to our fall break, and allows us an opportunity to greater analyze any needs for adjustment over that break. Students and team members will be required, based upon Public Health mandate, to mask at all times while in the building except for while they are socially distanced during lunch. At times when students are outside and six feet apart, they will be able to remove their masks, and we will work to provide these opportunities throughout the day. Please emphasize this important requirement to your children, as it is a necessity for a sustainable and successful return.

Returning kids to school is a huge priority throughout our community, and the measures implemented in our schools and summarized in this letter are designed to safely and sustainably further that aim. Thank you for your partnership in educating children and the value each of you place upon their success. Go Panthers!

Sincerely,



S. David Trimble
Superintendent