



# Knob Noster Public Schools

Dr. Jerrod Wheeler, Superintendent | Mr. Michael Cohron, Assistant Superintendent | Mrs. Deenia Hocker, Director of Student Services  
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Dear Knob Noster Students and Parents,

I hope this email finds you well and that you have enjoyed a fantastic summer! It is hard to believe that we only have two weekends left before we kick off the new school year! Summer has literally flown by...but our team is ready to welcome you and your children back for another fantastic year!

As we head into the new school year, I want to again thank you for your partnership over the last 18 months as we responded to the challenges posed by Covid-19. It is primarily due to our partnership and communication that we were able to move through the last 18 months absent the conflict we have observed in other communities. For that, our team is forever grateful.

One month ago, it appeared we were sailing smoothly into this school year, following an incredibly productive and healthy summer term. However, over the last month, we have seen the new Covid Delta variant significantly challenge our smooth waters. For this reason, I am asking that we all stay the course with our approach this far. We have 18 months of demonstrating what a highly successful partnership looks like. I ask that we remain in stride together as we work through our return to school this year.

A significant hallmark of our success has been providing parental choice, whenever possible and practical. This year, we will again be extending parental choice in a variety of ways. This includes, but is not limited to: (1) The choice for students to attend school in person or virtually, (2) The choice for students and adults to wear a facemask or not to wear a facemask (notwithstanding any mandate from a proper health authority), (3) The choice to vaccinate or not vaccinate, and (4) The choice to participate or not participate in extra-curricular activities.

The Knob Noster Board of Education and administration remain committed to endorsing recommendations and enforcing mandates handed down from the proper health agencies of authority, including the Centers for Disease Control, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, and Johnson County Community Health Services. Accordingly, we will begin the school year enforcing the use of face coverings at Whiteman Elementary (per DOD / Whiteman Mandate) and on our school buses (per CDC Mandate), and endorsing (recommending) the use of face coverings in all other locations and activities.

Included with this memo is the Knob Noster Public Schools Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan for the 2021-2022 School Year. This plan includes the district's endorsement of all recommendations and enforcement of all mandates currently in place from all applicable health agencies of authority. This plan will modify as recommendations and mandates are revised from the proper health agencies of authority.

We encourage all parents to carefully review this plan, including all linked information, and consult with your family health physician on any issues related to Covid-19 or your personal health safeguards and decisions. In addition to the dissemination of this plan in writing, we will host an in-person and virtual town hall meeting on Wednesday, August 11, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. from the KNHS gymnasium. Our community is encouraged to join us in person or online via Facebook Live ([www.facebook.com/KnobNosterSchools](http://www.facebook.com/KnobNosterSchools)) for review of this plan, including a question and answer session. A recording of the town hall meeting will be available for later viewing on the district website and on the district Facebook page. In addition, questions, comments, or feedback can be sent to me via email, phone call, or by scheduling an appointment. I may be reached at 660-563-3186 or via email at [jwheeler@knr8.net](mailto:jwheeler@knr8.net). On behalf of our team, thank you once again for your ongoing communication and partnership!

Very Respectfully,

Jerrod Wheeler, Ed. D.