



Dear Riverview Parents,

We hope you are having a wonderful summer; full of family, friends, good food, travel, and great memories!

We wanted to touch base with you briefly to both wish you well, and to provide some updates from the District regarding the summer months and the opening of school. Please read through the following updates at your leisure:

1. Building and Grounds Update - We are currently updating infrastructure and building maintenance including improvements to our aging HVAC systems, concrete and paving, electricity and playgrounds, and other much needed additions. We also received a grant to purchase a grow pod to begin a farm to table program at the Junior-Senior High School. There is work being completed at all three buildings over the summer, and we are excited about the additional upgrades. If you need to stop by any of our schools, it would be best to call the school secretary in advance, in case you need to enter through an alternative door.

2. 2021 Riverview Health and Safety Plan – As required by the State and Federal Education Departments, public schools are required to create and post updated health and safety plans for the 2021-2022 school year. Riverview's [Health and Safety Plan](#) is located on the main page of the District website, and was approved by the Board on June 21st, 2021.

3. Health and Safety Accommodations / Masks – Riverview will continue with our rigorous protocols to keep our school community safe. This will include physical distancing to 3 feet (or greater, if possible), a continued focus on air filtration, cleaning and disinfecting, sanitizing, and other strict protocols. As you have probably read, the [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#), the [American Academy of Pediatrics \(AAP\)](#), and now the State and County Health Departments, have recommended the use of masks to be worn indoors in school. A big advantage to wearing them is that the CDC has [relinquished the need to contact trace and quarantine](#) as long as students are 3ft apart and wearing masks. This would alleviate us from the hundreds of two-week quarantines we had to initiate during the 2020-2021 school year. There are certainly disadvantages as well.

We are most concerned with our youngest population, as they do not yet have the opportunity to become vaccinated and acquire that extra layer of protection in order to combat the virus. Given the rapidly changing nature of the virus, it is prudent to wait as long as possible before making a final decision, which in turn may also change as we move through the fall and winter months. We have two more task force meetings in the next couple of weeks with the County Health Department and Superintendents, and will continue to carefully analyze the trends of the Delta variant.

Although we have difficult decisions to make, we believe it's important to appreciate that instead of discussing whether or not to be fully remote, or hybrid, what is weighing in the balance are the use of masks. Fortunately, every one of our students and staff members wore masks last year with little to no hesitation or issue. So, in this regard, we are in a much better place than this time last year and are fortunate. That being said, we will make a formal recommendation on masks and will discuss this at the August 16th Board of Education study session. As we did in the 2020-2021 school year, we will continue to hold the opinions and recommendations of our health professionals in high regard when it comes to issues related to public health. We ask that you continue to be understanding and patient and know that we are doing our best to follow guidelines, and ultimately, to keep everyone safe and manage the competing interests that this particular topic brings with it. Your continued patience and support are greatly appreciated!

4. Vaccinations – We want to borrow language from the University of Pittsburgh's Chancellor in saying that the District "is not neutral on vaccination, and our goal is to achieve high vaccination rates on our campuses." According to the health community, the vaccination continues to be the best line of defense against the virus and its many variants. We hope it will become available to our youngest learners soon, but in the meantime, the vaccination will help to keep our families and school community safe. It also prevents the virus from spreading and mutating further. We therefore implore the families of the Riverview School District to have all eligible family members vaccinated as soon as possible.

5. Riverview's 50th Anniversary – As you may or may not know, this year marks our 50th anniversary! This year, we will be commemorating a half-century of incredible achievement in our Riverview communities of Verona and Oakmont! We will be planning fun activities around homecoming and throughout the year and we are ready to celebrate! Below is our 50th Anniversary logo:



6. First Day of School – The first day of school for students this year is Thursday, August 26, 2021. We cannot wait to see the students, and are so excited to start the school year “live and in person!”

That’s all for now. As always, we thank you for your patience, cooperation, and continued support of the Riverview School District. We will continue to work as a team and get through the pandemic together. Please enjoy the next few weeks of summer and we will send out additional communication soon. In the meantime, please continue to stay happy, peaceful, and safe.

Go Raiders!

Sincerely,

The Riverview Administration