



## MCPOLIN OFFICE UPDATES

Wednesday, August 5, 2020

Dear parents and caregivers,

Welcome to August! We are only 15 days from the first day of in-person or remote learning. So much to do, so much to prepare given the start of this school year will be like no other. I will continue to focus on the unlimited opportunities this year has to offer. YES – we have full control of HOW we use this situation to learn new and creative ways to learn, communicate, and interact. YES – by working together and making the overall priority of opening school safely for all of us, we will gain a new respect for the importance and reliance we have on one another. The biggest opportunity of all – putting aside differences for the benefit of all – One for All and All for One.

Let me use this moment to remind all of us of the kindness and amazing generosity our school community continues to offer. Way back in March, when everything came to an abrupt stop, a volunteer group of parents championed by the Mazenec family, our PTO, and others, created the M.cPolin Family Support Fund. An estimated 60+ families received a \$200 gift card to help with basic needs, including food, rent, and other living expenses. That is just one example, and a pretty darn good one at that, of McPolin's neighborhood and family centered approach.

Let's get to the nitty-gritty. I know you are all wondering, "What is the plan Mr. Ed?" A work in progress is my best answer so far. What is known:

- Virtual Open House – Tuesday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, the time is TBD.
- First day of in-person or remote school/learning is Thursday, August 20<sup>th</sup>.
- SAFETY is our first, second, and third priority. Until we create confidence and calm in reference to our procedures and routines to maintain a safe environment for everyone – students, families, and staff – any sort of authentic learning is limited at best. I can confirm:
  - TO GET STARTED – EVERYONE will be wearing face coverings.
    - Planned and routine face covering "breaks" will be built into the schedule.
  - TO GET STARTED - NO parents or visitor's other than those identified as "essential" will be allowed to enter the school until further notice.
  - TO GET STARTED - Parents/caregivers will stay in their cars when dropping off and picking up students. This includes first day for our new Kindergarten students or new families to our school.
    - What about those families that bike, long board, or walk to school – good question and we are creating a plan to manage that procedure. WE CAN DO THIS – we all need to work together and respect the importance of wearing face coverings and maintaining 6 feet of distance.
  - TO GET STARTED - We are creating a schedule that keeps students in "cohorts/groups" all day. In other words, each classroom will learn in the classroom, go to recess, lunch, all day to limit interactions and allow for us to do contact tracing in the event that sort of activity is required.
    - TO GET STARTED - All activities will be brought to the students such as; specialist's activities, art, support staff, and so on.
    - TO GET STARTED – the library, use of the gym for P.E., music, etc. will be provided in the classrooms or outside.

Did I mention we are just getting started? What we confirm today, may very well be totally different tomorrow. I realize there are many more questions, concerns, and clarifications. We will continue to share as we confirm and are confident the information is accurate and reliable. Let me assure you of our confidence to successfully manage everything and anything yet to come during this time of COVID. Our confidence is born from our many years of working with all of you and each other. Together we GOT THIS – what other choice do we have? Our kids and our community are counting on us.

Continue to be safe and well,  
Bob Edmiston

### Important Dates:

- On-Line registration – OPEN
- Tuesday, Aug. 18<sup>th</sup> - Open House
  - Time – TBD
- Thursday, Aug. 20<sup>th</sup> First day of school – in-person/remote learning
- SCHOOL SCHEDULE:
  - Breakfast served 7:40-8:00am
  - Start of day – 8:15am
  - Dismissal – 3:05 AND...staggered for safety starting at 2:50-3:05
- YES – After-School Program offered
  - First day: Thurs. Aug. 20<sup>th</sup>