

Dear Parents/Guardians:

I would like to start by thanking you for your continued patience as we worked to create a Back to School Plan that is practical yet maintains the safety of our staff and students as our highest priority. We attempted to keep our plan as clear and simple as possible yet provide you with the necessary resources to make informed decisions. The Pierre School District will be providing two learning options for Pierre students: either in-school or online.

As you review the Back to School Plan please remember that no plan can replace the importance of personal responsibility, **in and out of school**, to limit exposure and keep our schools and community safe. Our best chance to keep our schools open and avoid going back to a district-wide at home/online education model is to keep positive cases in our schools and community to a minimum. Please carefully review the full [BACK TO SCHOOL PLAN](#).

The American Academy of Pediatrics strongly advocates the school year start with students physically present at school to best meet the developmental, educational, social, and emotional needs of students. The Pierre School District will continue to seek and initiate additional mitigation efforts to make our schools as safe as possible for students and staff returning to school on August 20th.

While we have worked hard to ensure that the at home/online option for all K-12 grade students is as effective as possible, there is no substitute for in person instruction. Our online options, at all levels, will be coordinated and monitored by a Pierre School District employee so we can attempt to maintain the personal relationships that are so critical in the development of our students. We will be utilizing Edgenuity's K-12 Learning Solutions for this process. Descriptions of how that program will look at each level is outlined on our [ONLINE LEARNING PAGE](#).

The [STUDENT REGISTRATION](#) for both learning options; in-person or online, will be conducted through Infinite Campus Parent Portal. That process will run from August 1 through August 7. Building secretaries will be back in the building on August 3rd and will be available to assist anyone who is having trouble completing that process. We will also have a kiosk station at each school for those who have questions or do not have internet service at home. All parents will be asked to commit to either in-person or online instruction during the registration.

The past four months have been challenging for everyone, and we will have other hurdles to jump as we navigate the school year. That said, I am confident our staff and students will rise to the occasion, abide by the established protocols at each building, and make this one of our best years ever. This year will undoubtedly be memorable but let's work together and come with a mindset that promotes success for all!

Sincerely,



Dr. Kelly Glodt
Superintendent of Schools
Pierre School District