May 22, 2020

Dear NSD Families:

As the school year winds to a close, we want to thank you for all of your support this past year. We know these have been trying times for everyone and we could not have made it without your assistance. The partnership between school and home has never been more important!

**Plan A.** As summer approaches, our thoughts turn toward next school year. Our target plan is to open our school year as we have every year, welcoming back students into our buildings – that would be Plan A. In order for this to happen, Idaho and our community must have successfully maneuvered through all four phases of Rebound Idaho. We would expect no community spread and restrictions would have been lifted.

**Plan B.** Realizing that there is a possibility that some restrictions might still be in place and a vaccine might not yet have been developed, Plan B includes opening school with some modifications. There are a variety of scenarios to consider and we are working through many of them, planning for social distancing, limiting contact between students, sanitizing buildings and equipment, and more. This option has many nuances and we are still brainstorming and thinking through the implications and planning of several ideas.

**Plan C.** If we see a resurgence of cases of COVID-19 and restrictions are implemented again in August, we could be, once again, wholly online or remote. Good news, we are no longer novices at this and will be training to be even more effective with instruction in the online/virtual world.

Plans A, B, C are general in nature at this point and are still developing. As you enjoy summer, please look for additional information. We will work to keep you updated as more details are confirmed. We will post on social media, archive on the webpage and continue email correspondence. We are likely going to need input so our plans align with the needs of our families and students.

**Survey Results**
Based on your feedback already from last week’s survey, we realize there are families who may be hesitant to allow their students to return to campuses regardless of the precautions that are in place. Roughly 6% of our respondents felt that the flexibility of online learning would be a great option for their students. We are still taking responses for the survey. If you were not able to take it last week, here is the link: [https://nsd131.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bJVBLd2hS7KHok5](https://nsd131.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bJVBLd2hS7KHok5) (in Spanish, use this link: [https://nsd131.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3wVfK9TAivg2AR](https://nsd131.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3wVfK9TAivg2AR)). This information is extremely helpful in our planning.

**NSD Online**
As such, we are preparing for an NSD online school to open this fall. This school will be available for any student K-12 who wishes to continue their education in an online environment. Our goal is to provide a robust education covering all the core content areas and basic electives. More information, including how to open enroll and register into this school, will be coming this summer.
Whether it's in a traditional brick and mortar school or in our new on-line environment we are excited to see your student(s) next fall.

**More than survivors.** We have had a lot of conversation about the 19-20 school year. In many ways, it has been so unusual that it is easy to focus on barriers and challenges that we have faced both at school, but also in our personal and professional lives. I would like to take a final moment in this update to consider what we have learned and how we have grown.

1. **Resilience.** Although sometimes this word can be used too lightly, we have seen students, teachers, staff and parents not only endure, but respond to difficult situations with resilience and determination.

2. **Unity.** In this difficult time, we have been drawn together to accomplish amazing things. Connectivity, device upkeep, mental health solutions, food resourcing, housing assistance and more. Our community and schools have united in caring for our families.

3. **Communication.** The balance of sharing and receiving information can be tough to maintain. But school staff and parents have found a cadence of communicating with each other. We have worked to share what we know, when we know it. Families have responded with feedback and ideas.

4. **Instructional Strength.** As teachers and parents, we have learned a lot about the remote/online environment. These are skills that can follow us and be incorporated into a new year.

5. **Courage.** I don’t even know if this word covers it. But what we have accomplished as a school system and a community is nothing short of miraculous. The quick transition, the hard work of staff and parents, the willingness to dig deep to make it all happen – that is Nampa. Seeing the task ahead of us and then responding with courage to make it all happen.

Honestly, we are hoping for a quieter 20-21 school year. However, while we do not want to revisit the happenings of 19-20, we do want to carry these new “norms” into our new year.

**Summer School**
Just a quick reminder that we are starting the first of numerous summer school sessions, including our collaborative partnership with IDLA, on June 1. Links to the registration can be found here. [https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=JO3ilZd-V0yxKBQBfZ8WuSc1WMjA7UdNupq-edx8XrJUMko1QktIN0l4UVk5REhCM0JJODRMTVc5NS4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=JO3ilZd-V0yxKBQBfZ8WuSc1WMjA7UdNupq-edx8XrJUMko1QktIN0l4UVk5REhCM0JJODRMTVc5NS4u)

**Device Drop Off and Material Pick Up**
Don’t forget that next week, we will be collecting devices. Your school should have already communicated with you regarding the process and procedures. Thank you for working with us to collect and distribute items in a safe manner.

Thank you for walking with us in this last year. Have a wonderful summer. See you next year!

Dr. Paula Kellerer
Superintendent