

# *Plaza Elementary School District*

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*Patrick Conklin*  
*Superintendent/Principal*

August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021

Dear Plaza Families,

I hope everyone has had a fun summer. My girls and I enjoyed a couple of weeks on the East Coast visiting family. One of the best parts was that it rained almost every day while we were there. Most people may feel like that would ruin a vacation, but I think we were the only ones there who were not complaining about the weather!

I am looking forward to our 2021-22 school year starting out much more normal than last year. For now, most of the local and state guidelines have been changed for schools in such a way that we will be able to get back to our usual schedule and, more importantly, the way we educate students. Since social distancing and stable cohorts are no longer required if students and adults wear facial coverings while indoors, we can have students in groups or centers and can operate our after school SPARK program at full capacity until 6:00PM. Also, at this point we will plan to do most activities with little to no changes, including our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade sports program.

I am well aware that masks are not what everyone wanted to see this school year. However, based on the Glenn County Public Health Officer's response to my inquiry, Plaza School's legal counsel advising us to follow all state and local public health guidelines, and the expectation our insurance provider made clear to me, masks will be worn inside. By doing so, we can set up our classroom instruction, follow our usual schedule, and follow the latest quarantine guidelines, which are much less strict when facial coverings are worn inside. Plaza School District will have an agreement this year with Glenn County Office of Education to provide Independent Study or Home Schooling through William Finch for students who do not want to attend in person due to the mask requirement or for health and safety concerns.

In order for us to do our job to the best of our ability, we need to put our time and energy into ensuring your children experience the best possible educational experience while at Plaza School. Although this has always been my primary focus, I have spent the last 18 months talking about COVID, as well as the federal, state, and local response to all things COVID. This year, I choose to concentrate on the positives, which is the fact that we can operate our program as we did prior to 2020-21.

With your help, we can start this school year off much better than the last one if everyone chooses to focus on the positives.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Conklin