

## TAOS MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Taos Middle School Families,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well. We have certainly missed our students.

This has been a difficult time and many of you have suffered illness and loss of loved ones. Our thoughts go out to all of you as we work on healing physically and mentally, while moving forward.

I would like to extend my appreciation to the families who continue to make education a priority especially during the challenges of remote learning. Thank you for making sure your child attends virtual classes, actively participates, completes/submits assignments, and for the ongoing communication with your child's teachers. Because of you, your child is able to access and reap the full benefits of on-line learning, as well as being a successful student.

As you know, New Mexico Public Education Department has announced that all schools are to open for full reentry in April. Taos Middle Schools will begin in-person teaching on Monday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. We want to provide you with some information about what full reentry will look like at Taos Middle School.

Full reentry (the model we will be going into), **means students whose parents have indicated they will be participating in in-person teaching** will be in the building on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. The new rule from the NM Public Education Department is that we, "Practice social distancing to the greatest extent possible". We will no longer have the space to sit students 6 feet apart, since a larger number of students will be in classrooms.

We are neither encouraging or discouraging families from choosing the in-person model or deciding to remain 100% remote. We simply want to provide families with information to help make informed decisions that are best.

If parents have chosen, the hybrid (now replaced with full-reentry model) or the 100% remote, **it is very important that we know if you have changed your mind from your original selection, so please contact the office as soon as possible.**

It is also important to know:

- Our safety procedures follow CDC and PED guidelines.
- Staff, students and families will be required to follow all procedures.
- These procedures do not eliminate the risk of there being a positive case on campus, contracting, or the spread the virus.

We will be providing reopening details, safety procedures and a student assurance document that needs to be signed by parents and returned to the office prior to the April 12<sup>th</sup> start date. Here is some information to help you better plan:

- We will not have early drop off. Drop off time will begin at 7:25 (no exceptions).
- Masks must have at least 2 layers of fabric and fit properly – cover the mouth and nose and fit snugly against the sides of the face in order to contain respiratory droplets.
- Students will walk directly to their classrooms with staff assistance.
- Visitors and volunteers will not be allowed in the building and will need to call the office for assistance.

### DO choose masks that



Have two or more layers of washable, breathable fabric



Completely cover your nose and mouth



Fit snugly against the sides of your face and don't have gaps



Have a nose wire to prevent air from leaking out of the top of the mask

### DO NOT choose masks that



Are made of fabric that makes it hard to breathe, for example, vinyl



Have exhalation valves or vents which allow virus particles to escape



Are intended for healthcare workers, including N95 respirators

If you are choosing to have your student(s) in the in-person/full reentry model, please be sure that you are talking with your student about the additional responsibilities that will come with this. Masks will have to be worn all day, with exception of mealtimes and water breaks. There will not be socializing opportunities, collaborative work or play, and will continue to distance to the greatest extent possible.

Thank you very much for your continued support, and we wish you safety and wellness.