

July 8, 2020

Dear McClave School Community,

I know that many of you are anxious about what school will look like in August. It is difficult to know, as we don’t know how the COVID virus will spread in the US, Colorado, or our community during the next month.

As I write this letter, Bent County still has just 4 cases of COVID. Our plan is to begin school as close to “normal” as possible. Mrs. Howe and I met this week with the Executive Director of Bent County Public Health to discuss various opening scenarios and strategies. We also understand that families have differences of opinion on what they would like to see, ranging from school as normal, to just be home. As always, parents are able to make the decision to keep students home if they believe that is best for their child.

The General Plan document with this letter is a fluid document. The plans were also discussed at the July 6th Board of Education meeting. As we have seen since the start of the COVID Pandemic, situations can change quickly, and these plans can be modified. I believe the various plans mentioned in the document give us the flexibility to change with potential changes in COVID cases, local situations, and state mandates that may occur.

I have advocated to both the Colorado Department of Education and the Colorado High School Activities Association for the following ideas: 1. We should be allowed to open school as close to normal as possible, and on time. The first day would still be August 12th. 2. They should refrain from making state-wide edicts that might not fit our community or our local COVID situation.

I remain very positive about the 2020-21 school year. I believe our staff and students are ready for a great school year. A former McClave staff member who dropped by this summer commented to Mrs. Howe that we “have a good thing going here”. I Agree!! Let’s keep it rolling.

Sincerely,

Merlin Holmes

Superintendent