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Darren Q. Sylvia

Superintendent

July 30, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians

Welcome Back to 2020-21.



As we plan for a beginning like no other we have seen in the past, our core mission will be to ensure: Relationships, Rigor, Relevance and Resiliency are at the forefront of our daily interactions with our students, colleagues, and community.

With the health and safety as our top priorities the Board of Trustees took action to return to the Fall 2020-21 school year in a **Distance Learning Model**. When our county comes off the state's watch list we will continue to move towards our ultimate goal; a full face-to face instructional plan, while providing additional options for those families who choose to remain offsite. We will be instituting health protocols to ensure the safety of our students and staff. Chawanakee Unified will be following social distancing parameters therefore face mask and/or face shield will be required upon campus entry. We request all visitors to our campus to please call in advance to schedule an appointment.

Spring 2020 challenged staff and students to find a new normal for learning, connecting us in unexpected ways and has tested the Resiliency of our whole community. What I have learned most through this process is how much I appreciate the expertise our teachers bring to Chawanakee Unified and the dedication of our staff in their commitment to our students' well-being. This is why so many families choose to have their child become part of the Chawanakee family. Observing the ways in which our students continue to work hard to grow, as well as an overall appreciation of the little things in life; giving a high five, hug or being able to laugh out loud with many people around, and seeing the joy of our parents watching their children perform. What I MOST appreciate about CUSD is even under circumstances we have never experienced we are still a learning, caring and committed community to our students and colleagues.

Normal is such a simple word. It's our goal at Chawanakee Unified to not only find our new normal, but use the time as a learning experience that will forever impact the learning environment of every CUSD student, staff, parent, and community member. Our Fall may not be "old normal," but our learning will not only continue, it will **THRIVE**. We welcome you all back with open arms (3ft-6ft away) and masks on.

We will continue to offer free/reduced meals to our students in a grab and go model through out the district. If you are in need of a meal please reach out to your child's school principal. Our staff and site administrators will be reaching out through community forums to address their individual school's distance learning schedules. Our team is reaching out individually to our most at-risk students (IEP/504, Chronic Absenteeism and academic support) to develop additional plans.

Our school year will begin with orientation of new and returning students which will occur the week of August 10th. More information will be provided by your child's school site.

We appreciate your patience, grace, and understanding as this is a very fluid situation.

Sincerely,

Darren Sylvia, Superintendent