

July 23, 2021

Welcome Sewell Families,

It is with excitement and pleasure that I welcome students and families back to Sewell. Since March of 2020 we have limited opportunities to return as a whole school community. The staff and I look forward once again having students and staff back in the building.

I want to again thank students, staff and especially parents for their resilience and patience during these unpredictable and unprecedented times. I know this was difficult for all of you and am thankful we successfully made it through together.

While we return to our “new normal” there are a few changes to note. First, due to the governor’s order, masks are optional. To ensure safety we do recommend wearing them, but they are not mandatory. You and your family can make that decision. We will continue to do our best to social distance as much as possible. We will also continue to schedule regular handwashing and classrooms will regularly be disinfected by our custodial staff.

We are also excited to return to face-to-face learning with students and teachers. One of the “silver linings” of this experience is that the district is now a 1:1 device (computers) for all students. We will continue to use the platforms from remote learning for assignments, interventions, and projects. However, computers will no longer serve as the primary instructional model but now be a resource which will allow teachers to quickly gather data and provide more opportunities for differentiation.

As an OMA Gold school, we are excited to again provide the classes, band, orchestra and visiting artists in person. We look forward to our concerts, festivals, and performances once again. I believe these will help rebuild our sense of community and celebrations.

We are also excited to open the building back up to visitors and volunteers. You are welcome to continue to wear masks if you choose. We will encourage social distancing as much as possible. As in the past we will continue our student drop off and pick up procedures. You are welcome to park your car and walk your child in the building or drop them off. We will continue to use the “doorbell” for building entry as that is a safety feature that was installed prior to COVID building shut down. We also ask that you check in at the office prior to visiting other parts of the building. Student dismissal will be as it was, you can remain in your car, and we guide students to you, or you may park and cross parking lot at the crosswalk to collect your child.

So, we are getting back to some familiar and comfortable routines and adding some new ones. I’m thankful for the positive direction we’re traveling, but also realistic that we need to continue to be flexible to ensure our students are safe and continue learning throughout the year.

As always, I am honored to serve as principal to this wonderful community,
Rob Jewett