



Yukon Koyukuk School District
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Dear YKSD Community Members,

I hope everyone has had an opportunity to enjoy the Alaskan summer months. It's been refreshing to see pictures and to hear stories from our YKSD communities and staff celebrating their time together. The YKSD Regional School Board and leadership team are excited for the beginning of an exceptional school year. As we plan for the opening of our schools [on August 25th](#), schools are being prepared, facilities are being updated, and training is scheduled for our principals, teachers, paraprofessionals, and all support staff. The District has also been chosen to host the State Board of Education along with the Commissioner of Education as they review and discuss the Alaska Educational Challenge priorities for the 2021-2022 school year.

We recognize that last year was a challenging year, but our students, staff, and communities met the challenges and came up with innovative ways to provide healthy and safe learning environments. With the start of the 2021-2022 school year, while Covid-19 has brought about changes, we have new opportunities to continue to build upon our strengths to improve the education and experiences of our students.

The District continues to focus on the following priorities essential to our continued success:

- Quality instruction with culturally relevant activities
- Native Language and Biography Projects
- Parent involvement
- School attendance of 95%
- Literacy to ensure academic success
- Career and college ready graduates
- Providing infrastructure in communities for internet

YKSD will continue to prioritize the health and safety of our students, staff and communities, and will continue to follow the guidance provided by local and regional health experts. Given the new evidence on the Delta variant and updated guidance for fully vaccinated people, the CDC recommends universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status. As we start the school year, all YKSD schools will be open for in-person instruction and will be requiring all staff, students, and school visitors to wear a face covering while at the schools. Children under the age of 12 have not had an opportunity to be vaccinated. The mask requirement will remain in place until further notice. Thank you for your time, energy, and commitment to YKSD.

We appreciate you doing your part to keep schools and communities safe.

Sincerely,

Kerry Boyd, Superintendent