



Yukon Koyukuk School District
4762 Old Airport Way
Fairbanks, AK 99709

Kerry Boyd
Superintendent
kboyd@yksd.com

Telephone: (907) 374-9400
Fax: (907) 374-9440

Dear YKSD Families,

We are writing to update you on the ongoing planning for the start of school on September 8, 2020. While the Covid-19 pandemic complicates the planning process, our primary goal is to maintain the essence of what makes our schools fun and exciting places to learn, while managing the spread of the coronavirus.

Planning for Fall 2020:

YKSD is participating in Alaska's "Smart Start 2020" framework for planning for the reopening of K-12 schools. Smart Start 2020 is a process for planning for various scenarios in which local schools can reopen and operate in a low risk, medium risk, or high-risk environment. The risk level is determined by local officials through consultation with TCC, Fairbanks Public Nurse, and the YKSD Health Committee. Currently, we are opening YKSD Schools in the low risk, GREEN with Caution. Students will start school attending classes Monday through Friday.

In a low risk or medium risk environment, it is anticipated that schools will reopen and follow recommendations from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED), the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS), the Center for Disease Control (CDC), and local health officials.

If schools reopen in a low risk or medium risk environment, some of the precautions that parents and students might see implemented in Yukon Koyukuk schools include:

- *Two weeks before opening* – Families will be provided with a Welcome Basket with cloth faced coverings, gloves, COVID-19 information and self-screening, and school start guidelines to learn the new coronavirus prevention routines.
- *Health Screenings* - Daily temperature and symptoms checks and reminders to stay at home if sick
- *Social Distancing* - Classroom seating with desks 6 feet apart, desks facing the same direction, smaller class sizes and staggered schedules
- *Face Coverings* – cloth face coverings or face shields are required to be worn.
- *Building Access* – Limit nonessential visitors, one-way directional hallways and signs in hallways to remind individuals to stay 6 feet apart
- *Healthy Hygiene* – Teach and promote frequent hand washing, use hand sanitizer, cover coughs and sneezes
- *Intensify Cleaning* – Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces following CDC guidelines

In a high-risk environment, schools will implement home-based education until the risk level is lowered. In the high-risk scenario, we anticipate extended school closures during which time the following steps will be taken:

- A laptop or Chromebook will be assigned to each student for them to take home
- Implementation of remote learning using a variety of technologies: thumb drive exchanges; homework paper packets, phone conferences; etc.
- Weekly assignments and homework exchange

While we cannot predict which scenario we will be in until school starts on September 8th, we must be prepared to move between risk scenarios throughout the school year or until the pandemic is halted.

With your assistance, we are committed to providing your children with quality educational services and opportunities for academic, physical, social and emotional growth during the 2020-2021 school year.

Planning for the reopening of schools in YKSD will continue throughout the year, so please contact your principal for updates. If you have any comments, questions or ideas to share, please feel free to contact us.

We hope that you will stay safe and healthy this summer and enjoy quality time with your family, from your team to your family.

Respectfully,

Kerry Boyd

Kerry Boyd, YKSD Superintendent

Patty White

Patty White, Assistant Superintendent/
Principal of Johnny Oldman School

Chane Beam

Chane Beam, Director of Operations

Larry Parker

Larry Parker, Principal of Allakaket School

Shaine Nixon

Shaine Nixon, Principal of Andrew K. Demoski
School

Brandy Henderson

Principal Brandy Henderson,
Principal of Ella B. Verneti School

Casey Weter

Casey Weter, Principal of Jimmy Huntington
School

Andrea Durny

Andrea Durny, Principal of Kaltag School

Michael Day

Michael Day, Principal of Merrelaine A. Kangas
School

Vicky Charlie

Vicky Charlie, Principal of Minto School

David Filby

David Filby, Principal of Rampart School