



Superintendent: Dr. Mike Redmond
Assistant Superintendent: Dave Orlowsky
Principal: Lori Link
Assistant Principal: Paul Nettesheim
Dean of Students: Gwynne Chase

Greetings West Families,

I hope this letter finds you all healthy and excited for the start of a new school year. When students left our building on March 13th, 2020, we had no idea we were saying goodbye for the year nor did we know the magnitude of events that were unfolding. Now, as summer turns to fall, we are all continuing to adjust to new procedures and protocols as it pertains to health and safety.

Some of you receiving this letter have opted to send your students to Shakopee Online this coming year. We want you and your students to know that West is still considered your home school for events, activities and logistical purposes.

The decision about how school will be opening will be made on August 24th and parents will be notified by district communications. In the meantime, we ask that parents take time to review the school districts agreed upon procedures for cleaning and in-person logistics. We will be following the State's indoor mask mandate during the school year and we will have masks available for those students who do not have one.

One significant change to note is that in order to meet the social distancing guidelines, students will not be assigned lockers this fall. Instead, we are asking that students carry all necessary items in a backpack. We will reconsider this practice as we get deeper into the fall weather and students start wearing jackets.

OPEN HOUSE – We will be having an Open House this summer in order to get technology in the hands of 6th graders and to 7th and 8th grade students who do not have iPads at this time for any reason. In order to provide extended hours, Open House will take place on two different days this year.

Monday, August 24th – 12:00PM – 6:00PM

Thursday, August 27th – 3:00PM – 6:00PM

We prefer that students in grade 6 attend the Monday Open House event. 7th and 8th graders who are new to West are preferred to come on the 27th. If you have attended West in the past and already have your iPad, you do not need to attend Open House.

Given the number of changes that have occurred over the summer, student schedules will not be available at Open House. However, many of the typical Open House activities will take place such as device pick-up, student pictures for ID's and more. These events will take place in the front areas of the building. Weather permitting, we may do some of this outside. Students, especially 6th graders, will be given the opportunity to tour the building and meet some of their teachers. Please know that given the circumstances, teachers will take extra time the first weeks of school to familiarize students with the layout of the building and to build positive relationships with the students. All social distancing guidelines will be followed during the Open House events. Therefore, we ask that masks be worn while you are in the building.

One final change is our attempt to be as paperless as possible. This year, instead of mailing you a packet of back-to-school papers, all necessary forms are in the process of being converted to a digital format. As a result, we are going to wait until the first week of school to send links to the forms we will need you to complete. As always, if you need paper copies, we will be happy to provide them.

Every school year comes with excitement and challenges. We are excited to have students back with us and we are excited to welcome our new students into our community. We know that the current pandemic will challenge us, and we are ready to meet that challenge in partnership with you.

Thank you and know that we will continue to communicate with you on a regular basis as events unfold.

Sincerely,

Lori Link, Principal