

BEALS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
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Christopher Crowley, Principal

Crystal Blackwood, Administrative Assistant

August 17, 2020

Dear Parents,

Never in a thousand years would I have believed I would be writing an opening letter under the present circumstances. Last March, when we abruptly left school, we could not imagine that we would be reopening under similar circumstances.

A lot of time and energy has gone into our plan to reopen safely. Weekly, throughout the summer, our team met, driven by the latest guidance from the state. We discussed every facet of the school day and how the virus could impact the routine that we followed daily without thought, a routine we never thought could be affected so much. Over the spring and summer meetings, we developed our present reopening plan the board accepted last week. One of the biggest, as well as non-negotiable protocols in our plan is the mandatory use of masks, for both students and staff. Masks are to be worn at all times. Face Shields are only allowed with a doctor's note stating a face mask cannot be used. Gaiters are also not an allowable face covering. No adult or student can enter the building without an appropriate face covering, and the coverings must be worn at all times throughout the day. There will be many mask breaks throughout the day, as we will all need a break from wearing them.

Beals Elementary has always welcomed families to enter the building with open arms; we love to see parents and grandparents drop off their student for the first day of school. Unfortunately, under the new guidelines, parents can only drop off their children at the front door and can't enter the building. If an issue arises, please don't hesitate to call. When an over the phone conversation doesn't suffice, an appointment can be made and admittance in the building will be possible. As much as we hate to turn people away, we have to follow this important guideline.

Breakfast and lunch will be served, but students will no longer line up to receive their lunches. For both breakfast and lunch, students will report to the gym to tables, where they will be six feet apart from other students; their trays will be brought to them. After they have finished eating, staff will take care of emptying trays.

Students will still participate in P.E., Art, Music and DEI, but all three will be delivered in a different format, following CDC guidelines.

During the first few weeks of school. the DRA (Developmental Reading Assessment) and a math assessment will be administered to all our students in the K-8th grades. We need to know where each individual is academically so that we can fill in any gaps and progress forward.

As we progress throughout the fall months, I am sure that things will change. We will continue to keep you posted with any changes that occur.

Chris Crowley

Principal

Beals Elementary School