



August 11, 2020

Parents of Rothsay Students:

On July 30, Governor Walz announced Executive Order 20-82 and shared Minnesota's Safe Learning Plan for the 2020-21 school year. The state shared a new set of guidelines and regulations to help district leaders make the determination of whether to start school in-person, in a hybrid model, or distance learning.

Two main points from the Safe Learning Plan:

- A school district learning model based on the current COVID-19 infection rate in their county. (Rothsay must take into consideration that we draw students from two counties.)
- Regardless of the learning model, school districts are required to offer distance learning to families who may be medically vulnerable or otherwise unable or uncomfortable about returning to school.

On Monday evening, the Rothsay School Board made the decision that if the school year were to begin today, Rothsay School would begin with in-person learning as its base model. This decision was made with very careful consideration of the mental and physical health of the students and after examining local data.

In-person learning will include new safety measures for our students and staff. These include masks, mandatory handwashing, social distancing, split lunches, disinfecting equipment/rooms, hand sanitizer and soap in classrooms, and other measures all designed to keep our students healthy and give them a great education.

While the decision to return to school in-person has been made, there is always the chance that a rise in local and area COVID-19 infections at any time could force a change in that decision as we are always looking at the local data to drive our decisions. At this time a move to hybrid learning in Rothsay would have a different look from in-person as some classes would be split or moved to different rooms to gain more social distancing while remaining in the building five days a week.

Soon, our parents will be sent a registration form on JMC (our student information system) that will ask for details that we need to complete our preparations. Information such as bus ridership, the option to distance learn, and parent contact information will be essential in finalizing plans for the 2020-21 school year. We hope that you can fill out the form as soon as possible. If you need help or have any questions, feel free to contact us at school at 218-867-2116.

Without our parents, we cannot succeed. Thank you for all you do for us.

Stay safe,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wade Johnson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Wade Johnson
Superintendent/HS Principal
Rothsay Public School