

July 23, 2020

Dear Families, Students, and Community Members,

I have started this letter to all of you several times and had to change, delete, and add more....so I am putting this out here to you all with the understanding that all or some of these things could change in an hour, a day, or a week!

First of all, we have been working with the County Health Department and the Missouri Department of Education closely to be aware of changes coming our way and the mandates being administered for us to follow. The problem is that we are in a very uncertain time and nobody really knows what will happen next....so we plan and we have a backup plan or two as well. Sometimes when I speak with either of the above agencies, they can't even give me a definitive answer because they are waiting for guidance also!

Our plan right now is to reopen as normal with lots of cleaning, sanitizing, and teaching about good hygiene. We will take time out to sanitize rooms, wash hands, and whatever else is needed to keep our children and staff safe! We plan to have two completely different lunch shifts so the schedules will change to accommodate this. This way we can spread kids out more and sanitize between shifts. We will also still have recess but teachers will stay with their classes to make certain that students are practicing good hygiene measures on the playground. As of right now, Pre-K through 4<sup>th</sup> grade children do not have to wear masks...but if you want your child to then we will try to keep that mask on for you. I am requesting our teachers to wear face shields to protect themselves and the children. Face masks cover up and muffle speech and little ones learning phonics will have a hard time practicing these types of lessons. Teachers wearing face shields, allow the students to hear and see the teacher's mouth so that they can learn this essential curriculum.

I have a meeting with the Health Department on Tuesday, July 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. and hope to receive more guidance with our plan. Many schools are planning to reopen as normal and then have contingency plans available at a moment's notice! This is our plan for now and we hope to have mandated procedures from both the Health Office and the State Department to share with you very soon. Until then, please feel free to call or email me with your questions and concerns. My number is 660-852-3269 and my email is [rself@miami.k12.mo.us](mailto:rself@miami.k12.mo.us)

I am at the school working every day and will gladly answer your questions to the best of my ability. If I don't know the answer I will try and get you one as soon as I can. Please follow our website and our Facebook page because that is where I will post any updates that I receive.

Finally, it is with a very heavy heart that the Miami School Board and I announce that we will be putting a “pause” on our building project for now. The financial uncertainty surrounding us right now with the Covid-19 outbreak and our struggling economy has caused us to step back and wait for more positive and definitive information! We will not give up our dream of having new classrooms and a gym that can house our students and parents, instead we will wait and begin again when it is the right time. The Board Members and I are available at any time to answer your questions about our “Project Pause” and hope that you will support us again when the time is right!

Please feel free to call me with questions. Please stay safe and healthy and enjoy the last month of summer with your kiddos....I am missing each and every single one of them!!! Please tell them that Mrs. Self misses them and can't wait until I can see them again!!!

Thinking of all of you,

*Rayetta*