

ZALMA R-5 SCHOOL DISTRICT

7013 SCHOOL STREET, ZALMA, MO 63787 PHONE:573-722-5504

8/3/2020

Parents/Community Members:

The 2020-21 School Year is quickly approaching. At their July Board of Education meeting, the board made the decision to move the opening date forward to August 19th. It is the consensus of the Board and Administration that it is time to re-open our school and begin the important job of educating our students. We solicited input, comments and suggestions from parents and community members, through the use of surveys. I appreciate everyone that took the time to complete a survey – the information we gathered was very helpful as we developed our school re-opening plan.

In light of current COVID-19 conditions in our nation, state and county, our re-opening plan provides two options for parents and students for the beginning of the school year. Parents may choose to send their children to school or opt for online/distance learning from home. We are committed to work with ALL parents to ensure the success of every student.

As we prepare for opening our buildings, we are faced with many challenges and restrictions. One of the biggest obstacles we face is student transportation. Social distancing requirements on busses has dramatically reduced the number of students that we can safely transport to and from school. Responses from our parent survey showed that the majority of parents were willing to help by providing transportation for their children. Building principals will be working with bus drivers this week to make contact with parents to confirm those parents willing to help with student transportation.

We are all aware that there are many different opinions regarding opening up our schools. I ask that we all respect everyone's right to hold and express differing opinions. I am confident that parents in the district have made decisions that are in the best interest of their children and their unique needs and circumstances. We will make every effort to take the advice, concerns and comments from our parents into consideration as we move forward to opening our school later this month. Please understand that plans may change rapidly depending upon direction from our Governor, the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Bollinger County Health Department and the Centers for Disease Control. Rest assured we will be taking extraordinary measures to provide a safe learning environment for our students that choose to return to school August 19th. We will also take extraordinary measures to work with those students choosing the online/distance learning option.

Please take the time to review the district opening of school plan that can be found on the school website at www.zalma.k12.mo.us. Paper copies of the plan are also available at school. Please feel free to contact school to make arrangement to pick up a copy if needed.

Thank you,

Gerard Vandeven

Superintendent of Schools