

Dear River Bend Families,

7-25-22

It is hard to believe the start of the school year is just about three weeks away. I hope you have enjoyed the summer break. The staff and administration are excited about getting the 2023 school year started.

I have started receiving emails about what the start of the school year will look like. School officially starts on Wednesday August 17th for students. Principals will also be sending out information about opening day activities. I will also be sending out an expanded newsletter detailing what is new to River Bend this year. If you have not started the on-line registration process please do so before August 12th. As of July 25th the building secretaries have returned to the office.

Additionally, a Return To Learning Plan will be provided for the 2022-2023 school year. Using ESSER/ARP funds requires the district to create a plan and post on the web page. The plan will not be as extensive as previous plans over the last two years.

Basic Plan Components- As of today, masking will continue to be optional, students will not need to contract trace, efforts to continue good hand washing and sanitation will remain in place, enhanced cleaning efforts will continue, the district will continue to offer Binax-Now Rapid Antigen testing, and students/staff who test positive will need to isolate for five days. The full Return to Learn plan will have a few more requirements per the ESSER grant.

Hopefully, Whiteside County and our communities will remain in the low to medium for COVID-19 spread rates. I have had families and students notify us of positive test results. Our goal continues to be in-person learning with as few mitigation restrictions as possible. Communicating and keeping positive cases out of the school will help to keep us all in school.

I hope you enjoy the rest of the summer, I look forward to getting the What's New to River Bend letter out soon as well as the required Return to Learn Plan.

Darryl Hogue