



LUFKIN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dear Lufkin ISD parents and guardians:

The administrators and faculty at Lufkin ISD are working diligently making decisions that will be beneficial for students, staff, parents and the community all while following the CDC regulations and TEA guidelines for reopening school in the fall. Our goal is to provide rich educational experiences for all students while ensuring safety protocols. These protocols will be explained in detail once decisions are made on the state level. We do recognize that school as we know it will look differently in the fall. We will make learning available in a variety of ways which may include virtual or online classes as well as face-to face instruction. Extracurricular activities will look different as well as the Lufkin Panther football season. Once we receive the guidelines from UIL, we will notify the public on these changes.

Currently students are scheduled to begin school on Thursday, August 13th and do not foresee that date changing unless an executive order is given from Governor Abbott. What that means is that we each need to do our part to stay safe and stay well to lessen the spread of the virus that we are experiencing in the state right now. If there is an outbreak during the school year, we will allow the last two weeks at the end of school through June 4 for this purpose. We will publish a calendar soon with those dates highlighted and hope that the days are not needed to make up time lost due to other outbreaks of the virus.

We will have a Pre-K Roundup on July 28 from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. at the Garrett Primary Gym. We are encouraging all parents to pre-register their children on Skyward. If parents need their students ID, please call the Administration building at (936)634-6696.

To keep our students and staff safe, air filters have been installed on all of the air-conditioning units throughout the district. These filters are similar to the units now being used by airlines and hospitals. The units filter the air at a much higher level and remove toxins from circulating in the air. We are scheduled to receive a large shipment of PPE equipment and supplies from the state by August 1st. TEA is sending disposable masks, reusable masks, thermometers and hand sanitizer to help each school have enough supplies on hand for the start of school. We have purchased sanitizing equipment to spray each area in every school to slow the spread of germs. Our custodial staff will follow cleaning protocols to ensure the cleanliness of our buildings.

Decisions about students and staff wearing face coverings will be made when we have clearer guidelines from the state and can assess our threat level for the spread of the virus in our county closer to the actual start of school. You as parents can opt to have your student wear face coverings if they are attending in person school. Staff may opt to wear face coverings as well.

With the protocols in place, we will be limiting outside visitors to our campuses, that will include parents coming for lunch or bringing outside lunches to the schools. Programs, assemblies and field trips may be limited or not allowed in the fall. This year, we are not requiring students in PreK through 8th grade to wear uniforms in order to ease the burden of buying new clothes when shopping is limited. However, students may wear uniforms and/or clothing that is in compliance with the district's dress code. During 2021-2022, the original dress code will be reinstated.

We have conducted a survey with our parents in both English and Spanish, and know the challenges ahead of us. We have also surveyed our staff. The most important thing for us is that we are able to get back to school in the 'fall' in a safe environment. We also know that with the cooperation of our staff and parents and with the goal in mind that kids come first, we will have a productive and positive school year.

Please stay tuned to our website, social media sources and the local media for updates in the coming weeks.

Lynn Torres
Lufkin ISD Superintendent of Schools