



COTOPAXI CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS

Fremont County School District RE-3

P.O. Box 385 ~ 0345 County Road 12
Cotopaxi, CO 81223



719-942-4131
Fax 719-942-4134
www.cotopaxire3.org

Mrs. Danielle Van Esselstine - Superintendent

Mr. Ken Eckelberry - Principal

July 10, 2020

Hello Cotopaxi Students, Staff, and Community.

Weekly Message: I hope everyone enjoyed their 4th of July holiday and celebrated with their friends and family. Due to the holiday weekend, communication from the state and local officials slowed down regarding guidelines and recommendations but that will quickly change. Additional guidelines and modifications to the prior documents are expected to evolve this coming week due to various feedback received from stakeholders across the State. We continue to participate in the daily conference calls, town hall meetings, round-table discussions, planning frameworks, and meetings with the Governor, Commissioner, health departments and local agencies. This ongoing participation with state and local officials helps us remain up to date with the latest updates, discussions and requirements affecting our school. We are excited to move forward with re-opening and plans for the upcoming school year.

Board Meeting: We encourage you to join us for our July Board meeting as it marks the first meeting we will have in-person since March. The meeting is scheduled for **Monday, July 13, 2020 at 5:00 pm**. Although we have opened in-person attendance, we will still have the zoom link available and posted along with the Agenda on our website for those who wish to attend remotely. The meeting Agenda has also been posted at the building. We want to continue to remind everyone that all Board Meetings, including this one, allow for a public comment section. It is restricted to three (3) minutes per person and only if you sign up prior to the start of the Board Meeting. Thereafter, the Board President will announce you to provide your input. If you would like to address the Board within the public comment section, please send an email to Ms. Amber Canterbury at acanterbury@cotopaxire3.org, Mrs. Danielle Van Esselstine, Superintendent at dvanesselstine@cotopaxire3.org, or Mrs. Stephanie Tunstall, Board President at stunstall@cotopaxire3.org at least 10 minutes prior to the Board Meeting. All other guidelines associated with the public comment section are still in effect.

Food Distribution: My Neighbor's Cupboard food distribution will be **July 11, 2020, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm**. It is open to all Fremont County residents, so please come take advantage of this wonderful opportunity. Their guidelines remain the same: 1) food distributions cannot begin until exactly at 9:00 am; and 2) it will remain as a drive-through style format. You are welcome to arrive early, however you must remain in your vehicle and wait until it opens. They do take names, addresses and number of individuals for their required paperwork. Members of the Cotopaxi Lion's Club as well as Cotopaxi Staff will be volunteering our assistance with the distribution so come say hello. **Again, please mark your calendar for July 11th** and we will see you Saturday.

Remote and Return to School Survey: We just wanted to take a quick moment and thank all our families that were able to provide valuable feedback by responding to the Survey sent to you last week in order to allow us to evaluate the end of the year processes as well as formalizing re-entry plans for our staff and students. On Tuesday, July 14th, our staff will be working together to discuss considerations and recommendations from the state and local officials along with the needs of our students and staff, down to the smallest of details. I know great things will come from their teamwork. According to the recent conference calls and seminars, it appears additional guidance should be coming within the next couple of weeks which is exciting. This should allow us to finalize plans by the end of July. I do always have to caution that even with approval, all plans are still subject to change as guidelines and requirements evolve.

State Models for Return to School and Safety Preparations: We understand the frustration of not having the final details, we are right there with you, however many processes are underway across the school district in preparation for the return of our staff and students. The following is just a few of the State models to provide a quick insight into the various efforts we are making to getting our students back to school:

- (1) Full on campus and in-person instruction;
- (2) Blended Learning to include both remote and on campus instruction, and
- (3) Full online or remote learning.

Based upon our recent survey results, 88% of families indicated that they are “comfortable returning to in person instruction with increased safety guidelines”. Therefore, option 2 above would allow for both environments and therefore may be the best option to meet the needs of our students and families.

In regards, to safety and preparation, below are some of the actions we are implementing or reviewing for implementation:

- ❖ Portable Fogger designed for effective disinfection of all spaces both in facilities and transportation.
- ❖ Masks & shields as recommended, ensuring that staff has access.
- ❖ Facility markings and touch points regarding appropriate signage and informational tools.
- ❖ Digital temperature scans/thermometers, increased availability for staff and students.
- ❖ Hand Sanitizer for entrances and classroom supplies; processes for each transition will be implemented.
- ❖ Increased disinfection cycles and processes.
- ❖ Chromebooks for each student in avoid multiple use of equipment.
- ❖ Interactive White-Boards, overhead projectors and other technology to allow for live-stream and recorded instruction for blending learning as a more efficient tool for staff and students.
- ❖ Uniformed instructional platform to increase efficiency while streamlining and simplify processes for our students.
- ❖ Some classroom moves and design have been implemented for increased space. A possibility of varying use towards occasional outdoor classrooms could be an option as well.
- ❖ Structures for cohort alignments
- ❖ Guiding expectations for the lunchroom, hallways & passing periods, lockers, classrooms, activities/athletics, transportation, parent pick-up/drop-off, nurses station, medical guidelines, scheduling, etc. are all under consideration and development.
 - These are just a few of the items we are currently working on. After our staff collaboration, community input, and states guidelines are obtained and Board & Health Department review and approval, we will be sending out a more comprehensive ‘Return to School’ plan. Although challenging, it is very exciting also!

Resources: As always, we will continue to update our website and Facebook page as additional information is received. However please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions, comments or concerns by sending us an email at dvanesselstine@cotopaxire3.org or keckelberry@cotopaxire3.org.

Have a wonderful weekend and upcoming week. The weather is definitely warmer so please remember to take care of yourself and drink plenty of fluids.

Thank you,
Danielle Van Esselstine, Superintendent