



THOMPSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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September 4, 2020

Thompson Families,

We are so excited to have students back in school!

We have had a busy first week adjusting to the new health requirements. We are so proud of our students for practicing social distancing and wearing their face coverings. It is remarkable how easily our students have acclimated to this new learning environment.

Earlier this week, I sent out information regarding the appropriate type of masks that must be worn in school. This notice is posted on the district website <http://district.thompsonk12.org/> under the COVID section in case you did not receive it.

High Volume of Car Traffic:

The district has been working on the traffic flow issues during student drop off and pick up. Car traffic has significantly increased on the campus in the morning and afternoon. Each school is adjusting in making internal improvements to arrival and dismissal procedures to reduce the time parents must wait in their cars in line. Thank you for being patient as we develop new plans.

Distance Learning Begins on Tuesday, September 8th!

Thompson Public Schools currently has 255 students learning from home. Teachers will be live streaming lessons and assignment directions from their classrooms. Streaming will not take place for the entire school day. All distance learning students should have their class schedule today. Teachers will record essential lessons for students to access if they cannot join classes virtually in real-time.

Attendance for students learning from home will be recorded daily. Students attending live stream classes will automatically be counted as present. Students who do not attend live sessions but access the recorded lessons and complete their work will also be counted as attending school. If a student fails to participate in the distance learning program, they will be marked absent. Please note that school attendance is mandatory.

As a reminder:

- Students should be dressed and ready to start the day.
- A comfortable area for students to participate remotely should be set up at home.
- To prevent class disruptions, parents/guardians should not actively participate in lessons. If you have questions, please email the teacher.
- Parents or students should not video record, audio record, or photograph live stream or transmit in any other way, part of a zoom/google lesson on social media.

****Students will receive grades for their assignments. Middle and high school students will not be issued a pass/fail grade this school year. ****

Please note that our teachers will be using new technology to live stream from the classroom. There will be a learning curve, and we once again ask for your patience as we implement a synchronous learning program.

In addition, this will be the first time all teachers will be streaming from their classrooms. Our technology team has anticipated the impact on our network and feel confident that it will support the distance learning program. Technology can be unpredictable at times which could cause some access issues.

Free Meal Service:

United States Department of Agriculture has just announced that it will extend the waiver to continue to provide meals to all children under the age of 18. This extension means that the district may now offer **FREE** lunch to all high school students.

The district has different eligibility criteria for students to receive free meals at each school. Please review the criteria below.

- Mary R Fisher Elementary: All students are eligible for FREE breakfast and lunch. No Free and Reduced application is needed.
- Thompson Middle School: All students are eligible for FREE breakfast and lunch. A completed Free and Reduced lunch application must be on file.
- Tourtellotte Memorial High School: All students are eligible for FREE breakfast and lunch. A completed Free and Reduced lunch application must be on file.
- Distance Learning Students: All DL students are eligible for FREE breakfast and lunch. TMS and TMHS students must have a Free and Reduced lunch application on file. Breakfast and lunch can be picked up daily at the TMS school main entrance.

On behalf of the Thompson Board of Education members, we wish everyone a safe and happy Labor Day weekend!

Remember to adhere to the CDC guidelines for social distancing and face-covering so our students can continue to attend school in person.

Sincerely,

Melinda A. Smith, M.Ed.
Superintendent of Schools