



# Knob Noster R-VIII School District

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Dr. Jerrod Wheeler, Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Michael Cohron, Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Angela Rolofson, Director, Student Services

## Our Mission Is Student Success

Date: May 19, 2020  
To: Knob Noster Public Schools Community  
From: Superintendent Jerrod Wheeler  
RE: Covid-19 Update – Year End, Summer School, and Fall Considerations, New High School, and Other Details

Dear Knob Noster Public Schools Community,

Congratulations!!!! You have made it to the last week of school!! I want to again say thank you to our students, parents, and teachers who have worked together to make things run smoothly as we wrapped up the year! If you want to Pass Go and Collect \$100, please see the information below regarding summer school and we can keep the partnership going! We encourage you to strongly consider enrolling your children to extend learning throughout the month of June.

We invite you to join us for another virtual town hall where we will cover a variety of important topics.

### Virtual Town Hall – Wednesday, May 20 - 11:00 a.m.

To further connect and communicate with you, we will be hosting a third Virtual Town Hall meeting tomorrow on the district Facebook Page. The event will be recorded and available for viewing at any time.

### Governor Parson's Phase I Reopening Remains in Effect

On May 4, Governor Parson took a first step to reopen Missouri through Phase One, calling for “no limitations on social gatherings, as long as necessary precautions are taken and six feet of distance can be maintained between individuals and/or families.” This plan remains in effect through May 31. The state has seen a gradual reopening with restrictions, and this week, called for a stronger approach to testing in high impact areas. We anticipate “Phase II” will be enacted soon, which will provide greater guidance for our district as we plan for key events and the return to school in the fall.

### End of Year Wrap Up and Property Pick Up / Return

We will continue learning through the end of the year on Thursday, May 21. Following the holiday weekend, we have arranged dates for students to return school property and pick up their personal property from each school. The schedule is as follows:

	Last Name A-L Pick Up Available at All Schools	Last Name M-Z Pick Up Available at All Schools
Tuesday, May 26	8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday, May 27	12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.	8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

\*If you are unable to make either of these dates, we will run a final drop off/ pick up on June 25, the last day of Summer School.

For this drop off, the following precautions will be in effect:

1. Social distancing of at least 6 feet for all individuals
2. Universal precautions should be used by all individuals
3. Personal Protective Equipment (face shields or masks) are ENCOURAGED but not required with the exception that Whiteman AFB currently REQUIRES face shields or masks for all individuals

Please make plans to complete all of the following that apply to you during the pick up/drop off:

1. All school property including but not limited to textbooks, library books, laptops, sports uniforms, band instruments, and calculators should be returned. (Students enrolled in summer school – see details below).
2. All students' personal items that were left at school should be picked up from all areas, including: classrooms, lockers, locker rooms, etc.
3. All student medications should be checked out from the nurse's office.

## **School will Remain Virtual for Summer School**

As a reminder, the Governor previously called for schools to remain virtual through the end of the regular school year. Knob Noster Public Schools has also made the decision to extend virtual learning for summer school.

### **Summer School Details**

As previously shared, Summer School will occur June 2 through June 25. A summer school survey and enrollment form was distributed to families several weeks ago. If you plan for your students to attend summer school, please complete that enrollment form. If you previously responded to the survey that your child would only attend traditional school and have changed your mind, please revise or resubmit your survey.

The \$100 attendance incentive and partial incentives remain in place for elementary and middle school students this year in the virtual setting.

All students attending summer school should keep their laptop device. The exception is all Kindergarten students promoting to First Grade should turn in their Ipad, and they will be provided a laptop for summer school.

Summer school will follow a schedule which closely aligns to the virtual schedule used during fourth quarter.

Please email [jwheeler@knr8.net](mailto:jwheeler@knr8.net) if you are in need of a school bus hotspot for summer school.

### **Graduation Survey Results**

Thank you again to all seniors and their families who completed the recent survey related to graduation. We received responses from around 80% of our senior families.

Based on the survey results, we are holding the following dates for Graduation: June 20, July 18, and August 8 with an evening event to avoid heat.

1. As of this date, we will plan for Commencement on Saturday, June 20 in the evening, if the situation allows. We will make every attempt to provide a final decision on this date by June 6.
2. Our best guess at this time is that we will have to push this date to July 18 or August 8, based on restrictions.
3. Any Senior who is joining the military, PCSing, or moving, we have individual graduation ceremonies scheduled for May 29. Please email Mrs. Morris to request an individual ceremony.

### **Athletic Awards**

Due to the amount of physical items that transfer during the athletic awards ceremony, KNHS will postpone this ceremony with the intent to hold a physical ceremony at a later date. This could possibly occur on or around our final graduation date. The district has a plan in place regarding the awarding of Varsity Letters for athletes who were rostered to participate in Spring 2020 sports.

### **Sports – Modified Schedule**

At this time, we do not anticipate facilities reopening for sports until June 29. By mid-June, we will provide further details on the reopening of sports activities.

### **Meal Distribution Will Remain Once Per Week**

Our plan for meal distribution once per week seems to have worked as designed. Currently, we are preparing and serving approximately 8500 meals per week, and a big thank you is sent again to our Food Service Team. We will continue to carry this plan forward **on Tuesday, May 26** (due to the holiday). We will also carry this plan forward for summer school on Mondays, on the following dates June 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020, families that qualify for free or reduced price meals at school may be eligible for a new one-time Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) of up to \$302 per child (Pre-Kindergarten – Grade 12) to help cover the cost of meals students have eaten at home on days that schools have been closed. Students can receive P-EBT benefits even if they have been or continue to receive meals provided by the school district during the school closure.

### **Knob Noster Board of Education Meetings**

The KNPS Board of Education meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. For May, we will meet again virtually, as we did in April. You are welcome to attend the meeting virtually and may do so by visiting our [Board of Education YouTube Page by clicking](#) here or by visiting us on our [Board Docs link by clicking here](#).

### **Fall Return to School and Potential Second Closure Planning**

As we look ahead to the fall, the district is contingency planning based on the best information at this time.

At this time, the district is planning to offer a full time physical option that will resemble a “normal” school schedule. Along with this option, the district will require a number of safeguards with a focus on, (1) The overall health and safety of all individuals involved, and (2) The application of safeguards that are practical, impactful, and attainable within the educational environment. More details will follow.

In addition to the physical option, the district is planning to offer a 100% virtual option, for those families who do not feel comfortable returning to the physical setting.

A survey on these options will be sent soon.

The district is also preparing for a potential second shut down as we transition to fall/winter and as we approach the November election. Last month, the Board of Education approved the purchase of 1100 new student devices to replenish our current student devices, many of which are nearing end of life. The district is also evaluating multiple programs that could further enhance and help provide comprehensive reliability and validity to our virtual delivery.

Since our last memo, the state has suspended a new law regarding school start date. The district will include in the upcoming survey a question allowing parents and teachers to weigh in on a potential earlier start date in August. Currently, we resume school on August 24.

### **District Business Activities**

#### **Preschool Program Expansion – Little Wingmen**

The district received 150 responses from parents expressing interest in enrolling their children in a preschool program this fall. The district is using this data to prepare a schedule and align details. That information will be disseminated soon. Thank you to those parents who responded. The survey remains open for those who may have missed it. Look for additional details soon.

#### **MCASP Grant**

The district is preparing to submit its next Military Child Academic Support Program (MCASP) Grant which will request \$1 million to support the development of the Knob Noster “Little Wingmen Preschool.”

#### **DCIP Progress – New High School Funding**

Over the last four years, the district has focused heavily on advocacy for the establishment of a new funding line item in the National Defense Authorization Act called the Defense Communities Infrastructure Program. This grant was released last week, and the district is working to finalize a proposal requesting \$25 million in federal funding to support construction of a new Knob Noster High School. A comprehensive communication plan for this process will be released in the weeks ahead with more information on this exciting project. Below are the key components of the project:

1. New Knob Noster High School Innovation Campus Accessible to Whiteman AFB, including:
  - A. Robust K-12 Certificated Career Pathways in STEM, Robotics, Cybersecurity, and Aviation
  - B. Transitioning Veteran Job Placement as Specialty Educators in the Above Pathways, and Others
  - C. Certificated Career Pathways for Transitioning Veterans (Adult Learning) in the Above Fields of Study
  - D. Robust Advanced Placement Courses and Unlimited Virtual Learning Options for All Learners
  - E. Expanded Preschool Services (Free) for Military and Civilian Families
2. Multiple All-Weather Indoor and Outdoor Joint-Use Youth and Adult Athletic and Activities Facilities
3. Integrated FEMA P-361 Safe Room and Storm Shelter Available to the Whiteman & Knob Noster Communities
4. Integrated Whiteman/Air Force History Museum and Performing Arts Center Operated by KNPS Students

### **Happy Memorial Day Weekend**

Thank you for your time to review this memo, and we hope you will be able to join us for tomorrow's Virtual Town Hall meeting. As always, we appreciate your partnership and understanding as we work together to serve our students and community. Please reach out to our team if we may be of assistance. From the KNPS family to yours, we hope you enjoy Memorial Day Weekend 2020 as we pause as a country to honor the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military.

Very Respectfully,

Jerrold H. Wheeler, Ed. D.

Superintendent of Schools