

PIPER USD 203

3130 N. 122nd St. | Kansas City, KS 66109

p. 913.721.2088 | f. 913.721.3573 | www.piperschools.com



Dear Pirate Nation,

Here we are—the first Tuesday in October! It seems crazy that we have moved into the 10th month of the calendar year, but the weather, including the later sunrises and earlier sunsets, along with Starbucks' promotion of the quintessential pumpkin spice latte, serve as indicators that fall is indeed upon us.

My brief words today focus on an issue that has been on my mind, as well as in my heart, for the last few weeks, and that is **COVID-19 Trauma and Fatigue**. Today I want to acknowledge that this is real and pervasive while at the same time acknowledging that I believe as a community we are stronger together and here to support each other. While we continue to grapple with how to adjust to the “new normal” and aftermath of COVID-19, our employees, friends, families, and neighbors continue to cope additional stressors such as the volatile political landscape, financial difficulties, consequences of systemic racism, as well as exhaustion and burnout. As we work through these stressors our bodies respond with some of the following reactions:

- Feelings of feelings of fear, anger, sadness, worry, numbness, or frustration
- Changes in appetite, energy, and activity levels
- Difficulty concentrating and making decisions
- Difficulty sleeping
- Physical reactions, such as headaches, body pains, stomach problems, and skin rashes
- Worsening of chronic health problems
- Increased use of alcohol and tobacco

I want to take this opportunity to first thank our ALL of our **Piper Teammates and Coworkers** who are the BEST in the business and come to work each and every day focused on doing what is right for students. The Board of Education and I appreciate our team so much and feel intense pride in getting to work alongside them. Secondly, I want to thank our parents for trusting us with your children. Their safety, health, and well-being are our first priorities and the gravity of you trusting us with your most prized possession(s) is not taken lightly. Lastly, I just want to continue to thank all of you out there who work in the medical profession and continue to work around the clock to care for our community. You are amazing and our community appreciates you so much!

Traffic Concerns on Hutton Road

Thank you for your patience as we have implemented a new traffic flow pattern at Piper Middle School to ensure the safety of all of our students on that site. While the traffic flow pattern is working perfectly at PMS, we know this has caused some backup over the last two days on Hutton Road that is continuing all the way to the Hutton/Donahoo intersection.

**John Bakarich, III ~ Larry Beashore ~ Ashley Biondi ~ Kim Brown ~ Desiree' Fergus ~ Theresa Fisette ~ Jeb Vader
Dr. Jessica Dain, Superintendent of Schools**

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In an effort to remedy the situation, the Unified Government has agreed to send some KCKPD officers to help with the traffic flow. Additionally, the UG shared today that they have in the plans to remove the four-way stop and add 4-way traffic lights to that intersection within the next year.

COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies Discussion

The Board of Education is dedicated to monitoring our COVID-19 data and discussing district protocols on a monthly basis. As we consider COVID protocols, please know that circumstances may change and, in turn, influence our decision-making and actions throughout the remainder of the summer, the start of school, and throughout the fall and winter. We will continue to keep our school families informed and updated. The safety of students, staff, and our community is, and will continue to be, our top priority. Please know that there may be instances during the upcoming school year where unpredicted or unexpected circumstances lead to us needing to make quick decisions. If this occurs, we will communicate with you as quickly as possible. **Our next Board Meeting is Monday, October 11th at 6:30 PM in the library of the CTE Center and all community members are welcome to attend.**

At the current time, we have created a spot on our district website with [Frequently Asked Questions](#) regarding the specific COVID protocols we are following at this time.

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Please find below our weekly update on District COVID data:

	Students (Aug. 19- Oct. 1) *Running Total	New Student Cases (Week of Sept 27- Oct. 1)	Staff (Aug 13-Sept 24) *Running Total	New Staff Cases (Week of Sept. 27- Oct. 1)
Piper Early Childhood	1	0	1	1
Piper Prairie Elementary	22	6	5	0
Piper Creek Elementary	7	2	0	0
Piper Middle School	10	2	0	0
Piper High School	12	1	3	0
TOTALS	52 (Running Total)	11	9 (Running Total)	1

Proud to be a Pirate,

Dr. Jessica Dain
Superintendent of Schools