

# PIPER USD 203

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

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Dear Pirate Nation,

As I stare at the calendar, it is hard to believe this is the last Tuesday in July. WOW! Summer is flying by—it always seems like after the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday the race to the first day of school begins. And speaking of racing, I always feel an extra dose of American pride during the Olympics. I can remember as a little girl watching Dorothy Hammill and Mary Lou Retton in the Olympics. I can honestly say their examples of perseverance and strength shaped the dreams of my own very amateur athletic career—and they may have influenced my hair styles too! No matter the sport, watching the Olympic athletes truly taught me as a kid—and remind me as an adult—about “the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat” right in my very own living room. Whether watching as a competitive athlete—or an adoring fan—there are so many “life lessons” that can be watched, learned, and reinforced during an Olympic global event. I just absolutely love it!

## COVID-19 Update

The District’s plans and mitigation strategies as it relates to COVID-19 for beginning the 2021-2022 school year will be discussed at the August Board of Education Meeting. The Board of Education is very interested in hearing from the patrons as they discuss this topic at the August 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting. To that end, community members who would like to address the Board of Education directly are welcome to attend and speak during the monthly Board of Education Meetings. Our next meeting is **August 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM** in the library at the CTE Center. Patrons interested in addressing the board the directly **MUST** register by **August 2<sup>nd</sup> by emailing the Board Clerk, Mr. Mitch Nutterfield, at [mnutterfield@piperschools.us](mailto:mnutterfield@piperschools.us)**

As such, we are closely monitoring the County data as it relates to both COVID-19 and the Delta variant. Based on what we experienced and learned this past year, we will continue to focus on, monitor, and emphasize the following safety and mitigation efforts and measures:

- Encouraging students and staff to stay home if they are sick
- Offering free testing at school for students and staff members
- Continuing our collaboration with local health officials
- Using outdoor spaces and places as much as possible for instruction and recess
- Encouraging frequent hand-washing and using social distancing whenever possible
- Completing frequent cleaning procedures in classrooms and throughout the school
- Sharing information regarding free testing and vaccination sites in the county

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 as we work to finalize our plans for the 2021-2022 school year. 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

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Dr. Jessica Dain, Superintendent of Schools**

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unexpected circumstances lead to us needing to make quick decisions. If this occurs, we will communicate with you as quickly as possible.

## **New District Office Employees**

Over the summer, the District has had the opportunity to welcome two district employees to our District office team:

Carrie Gardner is joining Pirate Nation as our new Secondary Instructional Coach. Carrie comes to us from the Blue Valley School District where she served as K-12 District Coordinator of Blended Learning, Instructional Design Coach, and Art Teacher. To add to the fun, Carrie is also a Piper resident and the mom of two Piper Pirates!

Rick DeVries is joining Pirate Nation as our new Supervisor of Facilities. Rick comes to us as a retired Battalion Chief of Logistics from the Lenexa Fire Department. Rick's experience in managing physical resources and equipment, budgets, and capital improvement projects, along with his extensive expertise in safety management, make him the perfect fit for this position. Best of all, Rick is also a current Piper resident!

## **Sunflower Summer**

We are very excited to share with you an opportunity for your family to experience nearly 70 Kansas attractions at no cost from now until mid-August. "Sunflower Summer" is a program that was developed by the Kansas State Department of Education and the goal is for students and families to have fun and experience as many of these attractions as possible this summer.

This video explains in more detail this program's purpose and how to begin the process of accessing these free attractions through the Sunflower Summer app (Google Play and Apple App Store), which requires a brief registration process that is explained in more detail HERE.

There is also a website [www.sunflowersummer.org](http://www.sunflowersummer.org) that contains links to the apps and some additional information about this exciting, fun, and free opportunity.

## **Free Meal Extension for 21-22 and Household Economic Survey**

As you may be aware, the United States Department of Agriculture has approved the extension of its free meal program for all students for the 21-22 school year. The district recently released the Kansas Department of Education Household Economic Survey through the Skyward Family Access Portal. This survey replaces the previous Free and Reduced Lunch Application that many families may have completed in the past which is no longer necessary due to the USDA extension.

It is extremely important for our district funding sources that all families who may qualify under the USDA Income Eligibility Guidelines complete this survey. The results of this survey will also be used to determine those families

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who qualify for free or reduced learning resource fees, pay to play fees, and course fees. In addition, the results may be used to apply for available state and federal benefits, such as the Pandemic-EBT through the Department of Children and Families.

For those needing to complete the survey, please log in to your Skyward Family Access Portal. You will see a notification indicating you have an Online Form ready to be completed. Please note, families that have multiple children only need to complete one survey per household.

## **Enrollment Reminder**

As I mentioned above, we are quickly approaching the start of the 21-22 school. Please make sure you have enrolled/re-enrolled all of your children through Skyward, submitted required documentation, and paid all applicable fees. These steps are required for your child to be on an elementary class list or receive their schedule in August.

Proud to a Pirate!

Dr. Jessica Dain  
Superintendent of Schools