

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,

It's New Year's Eve! Tomorrow we welcome new students and incoming 6th and 9th graders as they transition to new buildings and then THURSDAY we welcome all of our students back! Although the beginning of a new school year is always exciting, this one is especially gratifying for me. I am so grateful to have all students Early Childhood through 12th grade in their buildings 5 full days a week, that our student-athletes have the opportunity to participate in extracurricular events, that we can host back to school nights, and host athletic games and events on our own turf; in OUR HOUSE! No longer will I take these very special opportunities for granted!

As we get ready for takeoff I want to thank the **Technology Department** for their tireless work in deploying student and teacher devices for the upcoming school year, the **Custodial, Maintenance and Grounds Departments** for keeping us clean, safe, groomed and in working order, the **Business and Finance Department** for overseeing and executing our Capital Outlay Summer Projects, the **Human Resources Department** for recruiting, hiring, and on-boarding our new staff, **the Communications Department** for upping our game on social media and community publications, and the **Teaching & Learning Department** for their detailed work with curriculum, instruction, assessment, summer school, and professional development. Additionally, I want to thank our **building administrators** for their focused and strategic leadership efforts, and lastly all members of our **educational staff** who have unpacked their classrooms and resources and are ready to welcome back students with open arms! **CHEERS TO AN AMAZING NEW YEARS EVE!**

Bus Transportation Update

Thanks to our persistent team, we believe the issue that was causing transportation details to disappear has been resolved. Parents who have completed transportation requests should now be able to see bus numbers, bus stop locations, and pick up and drop off times within Skyward. transportation technology glitch in Skyward has been FIXED! Parents can now log into their Skyward accounts and find their children's bussing information including bus stop, bus number, and pick up/drop off times.

August 14th District Community Service Day: Beautification of District Landscaping

A heartfelt thank you to the students and parents who participated in our Community Service day on Saturday! Our group enjoyed donuts, a little cornhole, and a LOT of yardwork! It was fun to see the community come together in such a meaningful way; please know you are appreciated!

COVID-19 Masking Requirement

At the August 9th Board of Education Meeting, the Board of Education voted to require masks for ALL students, staff, and visitors regardless of vaccination status, while inside district facilities AND when using district transportation. Additionally, masking will be a discussion point at all future Board of Education Meetings.

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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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:

- Masking requirements inside all district facilities
- Encouraging students and staff to stay home if they are sick
- Offering free testing at school for students and staff members
- 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
- Continuing our collaboration with local health officials
- 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. 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.

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.

We cannot wait to see your children; thank you for trusting us with your most valued treasure. It is a responsibility in which we take deep pride! It is going to be a GREAT YEAR! Let's get our students #FUTUREREADY

Proud to a Pirate!

Dr. Jessica Dain
Superintendent of Schools