

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,

Good Afternoon! We are moving and shaking our way through the first quarter of school! Today marks the last Tuesday in August and we will fast-forward our way into September. Most of our middle and high school athletes have or will be participating in their first competitions within the week. It is such a fun time of the year—I hope you are enjoying it as much as we are.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Last week I shared information regarding the Piper Future Ready Committee and the different ways in which we must be prepared to educate our students in the future. One of the items at the top of our list is managing the growth of the Piper School District. The district has steadily increased enrollment for the last 20 years. **Piper is currently the third fastest-growing school district in the state and is projected to be second fastest growing school district in the state within the next five years.**

To that end, the Piper School District is experiencing growing pains that have grown too big to ignore. At the present time Piper Prairie Elementary School, Piper Creek Elementary School, Piper Middle School and Piper High School are all operating over our Target Capacity Utilization. The Target Capacity Utilization number is a number calculated by industry experts that creates the optimal learning environment for students and staff. This calculation is based solely on classroom space available and does not include spaces such as the cafeteria, auditoriums, etc. Additionally, deferred maintenance projects are at a point in which we cannot ignore and are a detriment to the learning environment of our students.

In order to gain a full understanding of the needs of all of our facilities and district assets, the Board of Education commissioned a comprehensive district-wide facilities audit which was completed by a third-party architect firm who conducted multiple inspections with the help of specialized engineers. Each building received a grade card. [Click here](#) to see the ratings from the audit, along with pictures of our district facilities.

HERE IS WHERE I NEED TO ASK FOR YOUR HELP! Once you have reviewed these report cards, **please [answer the survey](#)** we have created to garner your feedback. We need the community's help and support in creating solutions. As we think about managing our growth, we need to be thinking more long-term solutions vs short-term fixes. Our students deserve to have access to the same learning environments and resources offered in all of our neighboring districts. Additionally, we must bear in mind that we are projected to continue to grow and grow and grow. A band-aid approach will not work for the district. Instead, we must evaluate, problem solve, and plan solutions that will not only help us now but allow us to be prepared for the next 10 to 15 years.

Please review report cards linked above of information and then [complete this survey](#). This survey will close on Friday, September 3rd at noon. THANK YOU for your feedback!

**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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COVID-19

COVID mitigation procedures will continue to be a Board discussion topic at all future meetings. The Board of Education's next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday, September 13th at 6:30 PM in the Library at the CTE Center. These meetings are open to the public to attend and community patrons are encouraged to sign up and speak if they have information they would like to share with the Board. To speak at the next Board of Education Meeting, please contact our Board Clerk, Mr. Mitch Nutterfield, at mutterfield@piperschools.us. **Patrons must be signed up by September 7th.**

To that end, we continue to monitor 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.

Please find below our weekly update on District COVID data:

	Students (Aug. 19- Aug. 27)	New Student Cases (Aug 23-Aug 27)	Staff (Aug 13-Augst 27)	New Staff Cases (Aug 23-Aug 27)

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Piper Early Childhood	0	0	0	0
Piper Prairie Elementary	2	1	2	0
Piper Creek Elementary	1	1	0	0
Piper Middle School	3	3	0	0
Piper High School	0	0	1	0
TOTALS	6	5	3	0

RECYCLED INFORMATION

Facility Rental & Use

We are pleased to be able to offer rental of district facilities for community use once again this year. Please be sure to complete a facility rental request prior to utilizing any of the district's facilities or athletic fields. For more information regarding how to rent one of the district's facilities, [click here](#). As a reminder, the district's Community Trail is always available for those wishing to get their steps in!

Lifetime Golden Agers Activity Pass

Do you know any community members ages 65+ years young? If so, please remind them that Piper High School offers a Lifetime Golden Agers Activity Pass that is good at All Frontier League Athletic Events (Excludes tournaments, KSHSAA events, plays and musicals). Passes can be picked up at Piper High School; please have them ask for Dr. Taylor Mapp or Mrs. Sarah Barnes.

Proud to be a Pirate,

Dr. Jessica Dain
Superintendent of Schools