

# PIPER USD 203

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

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Dear Pirate Nation,

Good afternoon and Happy Tuesday! Here is a fun fact for you shared with me by my daughter who is a sophomore in college. For those readers who celebrate Christmas—you have 90 days until gifts are opened! How's that for a gut punch! HA! Seriously, time feels as though it is FLYING—it is practically October! Like my mom always says, "Time flies when you are having FUN!"

## Piper High School Homecoming

Before jumping into my regular weekly district update, I did want to take a moment to address information that you may have read or seen on social media regarding a COVID-19 outbreak at Piper High School's Homecoming on September 18<sup>th</sup>. I wanted to inform you that the district received the attached letter from the Unified Government Public Health Department this morning regarding COVID cases associated with the PHS Homecoming Dance on Saturday, September 18. As was communicated via email on **Monday, September 20**, everyone that attended the dance was notified and asked to monitor themselves closely for any symptoms of COVID. While testing is not required, the school nurse has free test kits available for anyone that is interested in testing. We will continue to share COVID data updates in the Tuesday Talk on a weekly basis.

## OPAA! Meal Offerings

If you will remember, early in the year I shared with you the difficulty Food Distributors across the country are having delivering food to schools due to a shortage of delivery drivers. Our local OPAA! providers continue to work hard and think outside the box welcoming milk deliveries at midnight, shopping local grocery stores, and receiving district food orders at one location versus having truck drivers deliver food to multiple stops. I want to give HUGE KUDOS to our food service and maintenance team members who have gone above and beyond to ensure there are no empty bellies in our schools! To that end, I did want to remind parents that there may be days when the hot lunch that your children consume at school may be a little modified compared to the published menu. This is due to the fact that there are days when food deliveries do not come on time and so our kitchen staff modifies the options with food that we currently have onsite to ensure that we can feed all students. Please contact your principal if you have additional questions or concerns.

## Piper High School Academies Launch 2022-2023 School Year

As Piper works to ensure that its graduates are "future ready" for whatever their post-secondary pursuits may be, our focus on Real World Learning opportunities are a vitally important part of the process. The vision for Real World Learning perfectly aligns with Piper's belief that every student's educational experience should be based on content steeped in relevance with ample opportunities for application beyond the traditional classroom. By aligning our programming frameworks, scheduling, credit attainment, and graduation requirements to create opportunities for students to earn **Market Value Assets** (College Credit, Industry Recognized Credentials, Client-Connected Projects, Entrepreneurial Experiences, and Internships) during their time at Piper High School will help

**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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them to be in the best position for post-secondary success. As Piper moves forward with Real World Learning, we are venturing outside the practices of the traditional school setting, constructing academy frameworks, exploring competency-based learning, and reimagining the scope of the high school experience.

Beginning the 2022-2023 School Year, every Piper High School student will join an academy of their career interest in which we will focus on providing coursework and Real World Learning experiences that align with their interest of study. Student feedback is extremely important to us as we build these academies; we want to offer choices that are relevant to our students! Please find attached the current ROUGH DRAFT of the academies we will be sharing with current 8<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders in order to gauge their interest of programming to offer. We are very excited about this work—kudos to Piper High School for thinking outside the box and working to offer programming that aligns with the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Workforce!

## **COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies Discussion**

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. **If you are interested in sharing your feedback regarding our current mitigation strategies, please email Mr. Mitch Nutterfield, Board Clerk, at [mutterfield@piperschools.us](mailto:mutterfield@piperschools.us) to speak at the October 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting. Community members wishing to speak will need to be signed up one week prior to the meeting; that date is October 4<sup>th</sup>.**

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:

	<b>Students (Aug. 19- Sept. 24) *Running Total</b>	<b>New Student Cases (Week of Sept 20-24)</b>	<b>Staff (Aug 13-Sept 24) *Running Total</b>	<b>New Staff Cases (Week of Sept. 20-24)</b>
<b>Piper Early Childhood</b>	1	1	0	0
<b>Piper Prairie Elementary</b>	16	4	5	1
<b>Piper Creek Elementary</b>	5	1	0	0
<b>Piper Middle School</b>	8	1	0	0
<b>Piper High School</b>	11	6	3	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>41 (Running Total)</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8 (Running Total)</b>	<b>1</b>

Proud to be a Pirate,

**Dr. Jessica Dain**  
Superintendent of Schools