

# PIPER USD 203

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

p. 913.721.2088 | f. 913.721.3573 | [www.piperschools.com](http://www.piperschools.com)



Dear Pirate Nation,

Ever notice that as you get older time seems to pass by more quickly? Maybe it is just me as my own children are growing older and more independent. As Halloween came and went in my household without a fight to pick out a Halloween costume, or to put on a Halloween costume, or even take off a Halloween costume, I was reminded of that saying, **“The days are long, but the years are short.”** As I reflected back on the many of years of trick or treating I spent with my children, I found myself laughing at some of the most unforgettable Halloween memories that at the time had me so frustrated with my kids, or my husband, or the stress of ensuring everyone had their costumes while someone was passing out the candy at our own house. At the time, I was ready to call off the celebration altogether—but today I found myself thinking, “Did I ruin Halloween for my kids? Will they have memories of me as a Halloween Grinch?” Now, as we head into the month of November, I really want to do better living in the moment. I want to slow down and enjoy the season focused on **gratitude, thankfulness, and appreciation**. As I think about my experiences over the last 16 months, I feel so thankful and truly proud to be the superintendent of the Piper School District. I’ve said it before, and I cannot say it enough – we have an incredible group of educators and support staff here in Piper and I am honored to work alongside my teammates every single day.

As we approach this month marked by gratitude and thanksgiving, I am asking you to help me show our thankfulness to our Piper School District employees and celebrate their hard work. **A simple thank you in the car line or a written note or email of appreciation** can go a long way in providing our staff the encouragement and energy they need to continue providing positive experiences for our students. Our staff have been working so hard to meet the needs of our students, and while not every day is perfect, I know that every staff member here is committed to doing what is best for students. Now, more than ever, we need to slow down, stand together, and support one another. Thank you for your continued support and encouragement of our Piper educators and staff for all they do to support your children.

## Community Conversation

As you are aware, every year our students complete either an XSEL or a Panorama Social Emotional Survey. Additionally, students in grades 4, 6, 8, 10, and 12 complete a Kansas Communities That Care Survey. In both surveys, students share their feelings on school and their community. The Piper School District would like to invite you to a community conversation the evening of **November 11<sup>th</sup> at Piper Middle School** in which we will take a deep dive into our students’ data. We are looking forward to a conversation as it relates to the data asking the community: ***What stands out? Where are we strong? How can we improve? How do we move forward to ensure that we are doing all we can to help our children?***

Attached is a flyer for the event as well as a summary of the various data findings that we will be discussing. We hope to see you on Nov. 11 which is Veterans' Day! (Special recognition will be given to our veterans.) Please reach out to Jolene Jackson at [JJackson@PiperSchools.us](mailto:JJackson@PiperSchools.us) with any questions or concerns.

**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 Mitigation Strategies and Optional Masking 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.

At last month's Board of Education voted 4 to 3 to keep masking in place for all students. However, they also tasked the District Administration to outline options for contact tracing and quarantining guidelines if they decided to allow the high school students the opportunity to make wearing masks optional. The next discussion of masking will take place at the **November 8<sup>th</sup> Board of Education Meeting**.

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 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- Oct. 29) *Running Total	New Student Cases (Week of Oct. 25-29)	Staff (Aug 13-Oct 29) *Running Total	New Staff Cases (Week of Oct. 25-29)
Piper Early Childhood	2	0	2	1
Piper Prairie Elementary	29	0	5	0
Piper Creek Elementary	20	2	2	0
Piper Middle School	14	1	0	0
Piper High School	19	0	3	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>84 (Running Total)</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>12 (Running Total)</b>	<b>1</b>

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Proud to be a Pirate,

Dr. Jessica Dain  
Superintendent of Schools