

# 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,

Happy Tuesday! It is hard to believe that we have passed the halfway mark of October. As the first quarter closes, I would love to remind you that the Piper School District considers parents an integral piece of the educational team, and we are excited to welcome you to Parent Teacher Conferences taking place next week. In order to meet the varied schedules and demands of busy parents, Parent Teacher Conferences are being offered both in person and via Zoom. If you need more detailed information regarding conferences, please contact your child's classroom teacher or building principal.

## **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion District Leadership Training**

As I shared with the community earlier in the year, the District currently has a group of building and district leaders who are taking place in a year-long equity study group lead by a national group called Beloved, in order to create a systematic and sustainable plan to ensure ALL staff, students, and community members feel they belong in the Piper School District and have the tools they need and obstacles removed in order to reach their highest potential. We recently participated in an Equity Audit in which every **system** (i.e., Human Resources, Purchasing, Instructional Practices, etc.) in the School District is examined focusing on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. While each of those categories has their own competency, please find below our overall district **combined-system scores** in those areas:

- Diversity: Emerging (26-50%)
- Equity: Developing (51-74%)
- Inclusion: Emerging (26-50%)

Our district leadership committee is currently reviewing all of the detailed findings from this report and working on an action plan for future steps. We are looking forward to sharing our next steps with the community and garnering feedback and engagement in the upcoming months. Please find attached a full copy of that report. If you have additional questions, please feel free to reach out to Amber Buck ([abuck@piperschools.us](mailto:abuck@piperschools.us)), District Coordinator of Community Partners, Relations, & Inclusion, or myself.

## **Traffic Concerns on Hutton Road**

In an effort to address some parking lot safety concerns for student pedestrians at the middle school, a new traffic pattern has been implemented at the middle school campus. While the new traffic pattern has aided tremendously in creating a safer situation at the middle school, it has obviously created unintended backups in traffic entering the high school parking lot in the morning that is continuing all the way to the Hutton/Donahoo Intersection. You may have noticed that last week the KCKPD PD helped with the traffic flow and conducted a traffic assessment for us. We received that report this morning and our team plans to review the results and identify next steps. We will continue to communicate as we work to improve the process.

Piper High School will continue to be flexible with first block tardies as we find a better solution for traffic flow. Please know that we will continue working to find a better solution to the issue and apologize for any

**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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frustration or inconvenience this situation had create. We appreciate your patience and support as we work through this matter.

## **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 week'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**. Community members interested in speaking at this meeting should contact the Board of Education Clerk, Mitch Nutterfield ([mnutterfield@piperschools.us](mailto:mnutterfield@piperschools.us)), no later than November 1<sup>st</sup>.

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

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.

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Please find below our weekly update on District COVID data:

	<b>Students (Aug. 19- Oct. 15) *Running Total</b>	<b>New Student Cases (Week of Oct. 11-15)</b>	<b>Staff (Aug 13-Oct 15) *Running Total</b>	<b>New Staff Cases (Week of Oct. 11-15)</b>
<b>Piper Early Childhood</b>	1	0	1	0
<b>Piper Prairie Elementary</b>	29	2	5	0
<b>Piper Creek Elementary</b>	18	2	2	1
<b>Piper Middle School</b>	11	1	0	0
<b>Piper High School</b>	18	2	3	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>77 (Running Total)</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11 (Running Total)</b>	<b>1</b>

Proud to be a Pirate,

Dr. Jessica Dain  
Superintendent of Schools