



HOWE ISD

"Educating the Hope of Tomorrow"

105 W. Tutt Street
Howe, Texas 75459
P: 903-745-4000
F: 903-745-4001

June 18, 2020

We hope that everyone is enjoying their summer. Although it is still different than most summers with social distancing guidelines still in place, at least we are starting to ease back into certain activities. I wanted to let you know that Howe ISD is diligently working on plans for a return to school on August 19. While COVID-19 guidelines remain a fluid situation, we are preparing for three general scenarios in the fall:

1. Face to Face Instruction
2. A Hybrid Model including face to face and virtual instruction
3. Virtual Instruction

Face to Face Instruction would be a return to the “normal” school setting, but with some social distancing and safety measures in place. These could include face masks for staff and/or students, heightened cleaning and hygiene practices, modified schedules and routines to minimize interaction with large groups, and training for staff, students and parents.

A Hybrid Model of Instruction would entail half of the students attending school on alternating days while the other half is engaged in virtual learning. This model would only be used if social distancing guidelines limit the number of students allowed in the classrooms. To facilitate the virtual learning, we are planning a more robust effort to provide teacher-led lessons and support. This could include recorded lessons and opportunities to interact virtually with teachers on a daily basis.

Virtual Instruction would only be used if schools were closed again by county or state officials. As with the Hybrid Model, we would provide meaningful instruction to ease the burden on parents serving as the primary learning facilitator. We hope that this style of learning is not required again, as we know it created multiple issues at home and limited the amount of academic growth for the students.

We also recognize that regardless of the status of the virus in our area and/or state-wide, some parents will not be comfortable sending their children to school in August. Regardless of which model is in place at the start of school, a virtual learning model will likely be available for families that choose to engage in it.

We will continue to monitor the guidelines set in place by Governor Abbott, the Texas Education Agency (TEA), the Department of State Health Services (DSHS), the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the University Interscholastic League (UIL), and the Grayson County Health Department. We will delay any formal decisions until mid-July in an effort to base our protocols on the latest information available. But in the interim, we will work to have contingency plans in

place so that we can be ready when school starts in August and if there is another outbreak that would necessitate extended school closures during the year.

You can expect to receive a survey in early July so that we can better plan for a smooth transition. Some of the information that we will ask is:

1. if you plan to send your children to school in the fall under the current conditions
2. if you plan to have your children ride the bus
3. internet access at home or other technical issues you faced with remote instruction this spring

Thank you again for your patience as we prepare for the upcoming year. We will continue to provide updates as new information becomes available. Obviously, our hope is to return to a traditional school setting, as that is most beneficial for everyone involved.

Regards,

Kevin Wilson
Superintendent, Howe ISD