

Year-End Update
Tuesday, June 9th, 2020

Dear Parents and Families,

Greetings to you on this final “school night” of the 2019/2020 school year – This letter serves as a year-end update as we work to successfully close this final quarter of the year. This particular letter will be brief, but I hope that you will take a moment to read the [open letter](#) that has been posted on our website and social media sites.

As we close in on the final few days of this school year, thoughts immediately turn to the coming fall and our start to the [next school year](#) in late August. Since the closure of our school facilities in mid-March, we have been working on plans to reopen our schools as, without a doubt, our in-person environment is best for students in terms of teaching, learning and support. Our target is to open, in-person and on-time for the 2020/2021 school year but as we all know, a definitive statement in this regard requires a prediction that no one can responsibly declare. We have all heard health officials warn of a second or third wave of the COVID-19 Coronavirus with many estimates including this coming fall. None of us know for certain what we will encounter as a community in the coming months, but we can plan accordingly and head into the coming school year with multifaceted strategies in place for every conceivable situation. As a school district, those plans are in constant development as we work forward in concert with our families, colleagues, and partners in public health.

Over the coming weeks and months, please look for continual updates and opportunities to review plans and provide input. Our plans will account for everything from school as normal (all students, full day) to complete closure (remote learning) and hybrid models that account for less students per classroom. We are also working on enhanced, remote options for students who are unable to return to school this fall due to preexisting conditions. An update in this regard was provided to our Board of Trustees this evening. You can view that update presentation on our [website](#) for additional information pertaining to our ongoing planning efforts.

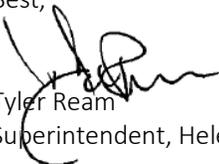
For now, we are kindly asking for your feedback specifically on the remote environment of the last few months. The below-linked survey is designed for parents/guardians and requests feedback that will be utilized to help us improve. By no means is this survey meant to indicate anything about the coming school year. Rather, our school system shifted in the matter of a few days in mid-March and your feedback as to what went well and how we can improve will assist us should we ever face the same set of circumstances again in the future. Please take a moment to complete the below survey. Because different students responded to remote learning in different ways, we are asking parents/guardians to complete one survey per student.

Survey Link: <https://bit.ly/hsdremotelearning>

In closing, I want to thank you again for all that you did as parents, guardians, and family members to support your children this spring. As a whole, a lot was asked of us, but I am truly proud of how our community responded in this time of need. I wish you and your loved ones the absolute best this summer. Please look for additional updates across the coming weeks and months as we prepare for our first days of school in late August.

Please take care, stay safe and stay connected.

Best,



Tyler Ream
Superintendent, Helena Public Schools