



ORCHARD SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOME OF THE BRUINS | SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1856

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August 2021

Dear Orchard Families

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter regarding my excitement in joining the Orchard community. I was drawn to Orchard because of this small and tight community that has a keen focus on supporting all students. It is the family mentality that emerges when I speak to anyone about this district, and it is what I firmly believe makes for a thriving community. Orchard is a critical part of this community and one that I will embrace.

I would like to share with you that student-centered learning and caring for the whole child center all of my work in education. In returning to school after so much time, it is clear, there has never been a more critical time to focus on learning. Our student's needs, ensuring we provide as many opportunities as possible for them to engage with their learning, and helping them to build strong relationships with their peers and community are essential.

Our exceptional staff has been steadily preparing for our full reopening in the fall. We have been cleaning all spaces, increasing campus markings, updating our facilities, increasing and ensuring proper ventilation, and more importantly identifying ways to help our students re-engage with in-person learning.

Our students will return to school on **August 12th**. We know the importance of our students returning to school and being able to stay in school. As such, Orchard will strictly follow state and county guidance regarding mitigating the risk of COVID. Staff and students will be required to wear masks, daily cleaning throughout the campus will increase, new student pick-up and drop-off procedures will be implemented, and only essential visitors as approved by District staff will be allowed on campus. We care deeply about our students and about maintaining a healthy learning environment.

I am eager to see our students returning and meeting each of you. Please feel free to reach out to our team and me; I look forward to serving the students and families in Orchard.

Jeff Bowman, Ed.D

Superintendent