



GRAFORD ISD



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Graford ISD Community,

I hope that everyone is having a productive summer and you are staying safe and healthy. Since the end of last spring, we have been anxiously awaiting guidance from the State about the reopening of school and extracurricular activities. As of today, Graford ISD will continue to follow the adopted 2020-2021 calendar posted on the District's website. The first day of school for all students will be Tuesday, August 18. Please understand that all plans are subject to change based on updates we receive from Governor Abbott and the Texas Education Agency.

When students return to school on August 18, Graford ISD will provide two instructional options for our students:

Option #1: Return to full time in-person instruction with increased sanitization and disinfection procedures. Students will report to campus five days a week and resume a normal school day schedule with face-to-face instruction. Once school has started, parents can only change the learning option at the end of the six-week grading period.

Option #2: Home-based remote instruction (pK-12): Parents can choose to have their children taught remotely five days a week. Remote instruction will consist of a mixture of two-way, real-time/live, virtual instruction between teachers and students as well as pre-recorded instructional videos and uploaded daily plans, resources and assignments. Remote learning will not be the same experience that students had in the spring of 2020. Students participating in remote learning must be in attendance daily for at least 90% of their classes to receive credit and be promoted to the next grade. Truancy laws will apply to students participating in remote learning. Graford ISD remote learning will be rigorous and grading procedures will be the same as in person learning. Once school has started, parents can only change the learning option at the end of a six-week grading period.

Students participating in Option 1 and Option 2 will be required to take the STAAR test at this time in grades 3-8.

Students who choose to participate in UIL athletics, UIL extracurricular activities, student activity groups or specific CIE courses must choose Option 1 (in person instruction). This includes all athletics, cheerleading, UIL academics, and One-Act Play, FCCLA, and shop specific classes such as welding.

Graford Independent School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender or disability in providing education services, activities, and programs, in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Right Act of 1964, as amended, Title IX of the Educational Amendment of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Health and Safety Measures at Graford ISD:

1. All classrooms and facilities will receive regular and extensive sanitizing with the use of electrostatic misters to disinfect surfaces,
2. Hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms, entrances and common areas.
3. Hand washing practices will be taught and utilized throughout the day.
4. Face masks and face shields will be available on a limited basis for students and staff. At this time, face coverings are mandated by the Governor's order (Executive Order GA 29) for ages 10 and above. Schools are required to comply with the Governor's executive order on face coverings. Masks will be required for grades 4-12 and recommended for pK-3, masks are to be used when entering and exiting the building and during class changes. Graford ISD will have measures in place so that students will not be required to wear masks when in classrooms.
5. Campus will avoid large indoor gatherings and assemblies.
6. Traditional water fountains will be turned off. Water bottle filling stations are available and students are encouraged to bring their own labeled water bottles for personal use.
7. Campus will practice social distancing whenever possible as needed.
8. Increased training and signage.
9. All district staff will self-screen daily for COVID-19 symptoms before arriving to campus. Temperature checks will be conducted daily. Staff members must report results to the district if they have COVID-19 symptoms, are lab confirmed with COVID-19 or have had close contact with an individual who is lab confirmed with COVID-19. COVID-19 symptoms include:

*Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit

*Loss of taste or smell

*Cough, shortness of breath or chest pain

*Significant muscle pain or ache

*Headache, chills, sore throat, shaking or exaggerated shivering

*Diarrhea

10. Close contact with an individual who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19: Close contact is defined as being directly exposed to infectious secretions (i.e. being coughed on while not wearing a mask or face shield), or being within 6 feet for a cumulative duration for 15 minutes while not wearing a mask or face shield; if either occurred at any time in the last 14 days at the same time the infected individual was infectious. Individuals are presumed infectious at least two days prior to symptom onset or, in the case of asymptomatic individuals who are lab confirmed with COVID-19, two days prior to the confirming lab test.

11. Parents must ensure they do not send a child to school if the child has COVID-19 symptoms or is lab confirmed with COVID-19. Parents may choose to have their child receive remote instruction if the child has been in close contact with an individual that has a lab confirmed case. Students can return to campus after they have been cleared by their health care provider.

12. School counselor will work to provide academic, social, emotional and mental health support for students.

13. Transportation: Families are encouraged to transport their child to help reduce possible exposure. Hand sanitizer will be available on buses and when possible, windows will be open to allow air to circulate. Buses will be cleaned and sanitized after every bus trip.

14. Visitors: Visitor access will be restricted to only those individuals who have essential school business. Authorized visitors will be screened for COVID-19 symptoms and have their temperature taken. Parents will not be allowed inside the building to accompany their child to the cafeteria or to the classroom at this time.

Other procedures and safety guidelines will be posted soon on the district's web site.

Graford ISD is committed to providing students with a rigorous and safe learning experience. As we receive guidance and further mandates from the Governor's office, the Texas Education Agency, and the Texas Department of Health, we will adapt as the situation changes.

Within the next two weeks, your child's campus principal will be in touch with you to coordinate learning options in preparation for the first day of school on August 18. In the meantime, I hope you have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Respectfully,

Dennis Holt, Superintendent

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