

Jack Hurley
Superintendent of Schools

Joseph Kelly
Business Administrator / Board Secretary

June 23, 2021

Dear Rutherford School Community,

Thank you for your support and flexibility during this school year. We are grateful that we were able to have staff and students in our buildings for most of the year, and in many ways this experience made us even stronger. We found new ways to make our programs work in the reality we faced.

For Fall 2021, we are happy to be planning for a “normal” opening to the school year. By that I mean full-day, in-person sessions. We do not know yet what, if any, health or safety regulations may be established by the state. We are staying tuned to discussions about those issues and await the release of guidelines and regulations.

When we learn the requirements, we will determine how to best work within them in Rutherford. In addition to sharing high-priority information through the Connect 5 notification system, we'll continue to use email, our regular [district website](#), our [Reopening](#) website, and our social media accounts.

A separate letter sent out previously this week detailed some important enhancements we will implement for 2021-22. Grant funding through the U.S. Department of Education will pay for the expansion of some of our academic programs, addition of key support personnel, and improved access to technology. That funding is called the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund.

As part of the next grant being released by the federal governments, the American Recovery Plan/ESSER funding, we are required to post our Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service. That document details numerous ways we adapted our daily operations to bring students back to schools. The plan was compiled as part of the application for grant funding, and it covers mask wearing and social distancing practices that were in place this past year.

The plan we submitted will be posted on our website as required, but it does not reflect the public safety rules that will evolve for Fall 2021.

Thank you for your continued attention to the changing guidelines. We look forward to planning for a return to school that looks more like 2019 than 2020.

Sincerely,

Jack Hurley
Superintendent of Schools