

# Flathead High School



## Welcome to the 2020-21 School Year

FHS Families,

The 2020-21 school year is finally upon us! We are delighted to welcome the Flathead Family back into our building to begin a new year of learning.

I purposely waited to send this email until after the August 7 deadline for selecting Remote Learning for semester 1. Remote vs. face-to-face learning was a large and personal family decision for all of you. We are committed to serving all learners with a great education, remotely or in person.

Final numbers of families accessing remote learning for the semester are forthcoming, but it is a relatively small number. The majority of students will return to campus for face-to-face learning. I am keeping all parents on the same email list, so that even those remote families have information and updates.

I know many of you have been anxiously waiting to see how our year will unfold, and it's time to share some important details about our upcoming school year.

### Health and Safety Have Top Priority

Flathead High School and Kalispell Public Schools follow guidelines from our local county health department. During the COVID 19 pandemic, we use their guidance, plus mandates and recommendations from the state and other organizations such as the CDC and American Academy of Pediatrics to create a safe environment for students and staff. Here is the link to the Kalispell Public Schools operational document:

[KPS Pandemic Operational Guidance](#)

Here are some specifics at FHS supporting these procedures:

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### **Masks**

All people entering our building must wear a mask. Please take the time to find a comfortable mask for your child to wear during school. 8:15 to 3:15 is a long time to wear a mask. I know because I have been practicing!

Our school board will approve this requirement on Tuesday, August 11, during its regular board meeting. Here is the language being approved:

Middle School/High School: Masks are REQUIRED for in person learning when physical distancing of 6 feet cannot be maintained.

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### **Hand Sanitizing**

We have increased our amount of hand sanitizer stations throughout the building. Students should regularly sanitize their hands throughout the day when hand washing is not practical.

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### **Seating Charts and Assigned Areas**

In the event of a COVID 19 case we must provide the health department with a contact list. A contact is someone who was in close proximity to the sick person. The health department determines which people are contacts and which are not. They also decide who needs to quarantine, who should get tested, and who is ok to continue with regular activities.

With this in mind, students can expect seating charts in all classes and on buses. They will have designated areas for congregating before school and during lunch.

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### **Cleaning**

We have modified our cleaning procedures. Classrooms and common areas will be disinfected daily and wiped down between classes. Hats off to our custodial staff who already go above and beyond. They are working hard to ensure a clean and sanitized school.

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### **Attendance**

Attendance is so important to learning. However, given the pandemic, we are waiving our Final Exam Incentive for students with 3 or fewer absences in a class. We may see students and staff who are sick with COVID. We may see students and staff who are under quarantine orders. Keeping our school healthy takes top priority. If students do not feel well, they should stay home.

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### **Google Classroom**

We will prepare students for possible school shutdown and/or quarantines by establishing their Google classrooms in each class period from day 1. Teachers are adjusting their lessons to accommodate for this. We will be ready in the event of school wide remote learning!

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### **School Supplies**

We will eliminate the sharing of school supplies as much as possible. Your child's teachers will have specifics regarding necessary school supplies. Typical high school supplies include a planner, notebooks, paper, binders, pens, pencils, calculators, etc.

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Back to School is a time when we disseminate lots of information. Our "regular" Back to School Information Bulletin can be found here. It is also posted on the FHS website.

[FHS Back to School Bulletin](#)

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As always, do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns. You can respond to this email or call me directly at 751-3650.

Michele Paine, Principal

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