Greetings, Rockwood Community Members:

During the spring of 2020, the Rockwood School District temporarily closed schools to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and to support the health of our students, staff, parents, and community. Since the emergence of COVID-19, district representatives have collaborated extensively with the St. Louis County Department of Public Health, superintendents and healthcare professionals throughout the St. Louis region, and the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. In considering the return to our schools and classrooms, we must balance the risk of transmission of COVID-19 with the negative impact of school closure upon the social, emotional, behavioral and physical health of our children.

Our schools are designed to encourage social interactions among students and the adults who care for them. Our classrooms invite face-to-face interactions, teamwork, and collaboration. Social/physical distancing at all times is a difficult, if not
impossible, task in the educational spaces of the Rockwood School District. While we cannot remove all risk of infection, we will take reasonable steps to protect our students and staff and optimize their health and well-being. We must also consider our students who may be at higher risk due to underlying health conditions and less comfortable with returning to our schools for in-person educational services. We must create structures and processes that support the health and well-being of our staff members who serve our students each day.

This plan is guided by the focus areas within our District’s strategic plan, The Way Forward: Student Academic Learning; Universal Equity, Opportunity, Access; Character and Well-Being; Community Networks; Efficiency and Effectiveness; Staff, Teachers, and Learners; and Strong Leadership. One of the choices within our original plan outlined in-person educational services in our schools five days per week. Unfortunately, the continued spread of COVID-19 presents challenges with that approach and to the safety of our students and staff.

We have taken steps to create a plan that is realistic, balanced, and sustainable given the feedback of our stakeholders and the guidance from the St. Louis County Department of Public Health. The guidelines and procedures outlined in this plan are designed to provide a basic understanding of the structures in place for the fall. Additional details will be provided by building administrators.

The 2020-2021 academic year awaits! I look forward to learning and growing together throughout the implementation of this plan.

Sincerely,

Mark T. Miles, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Rockwood School District

Options for Families

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Public Notices