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August 21, 2020

Hello Falcon Families,

As you prepare for the coming school year, I want to take time to say thank you for your patience and understanding as we navigate these new waters. We have had so much change in the past few months. Everything we do seems to be undone within a matter of days. I am writing to explain where we are as well as how we got here in relation to the coming school year.

As most know, the spring brought unprecedented changes to all of our lives. We implemented remote learning and made it to the end of the year.

This summer we have worked to create a program that allows for family choice of on-site learning or online learning. As we worked through creating this program we listened to the parents who gave feedback about the selected online program and also the staff who had suggestions. We moved forward with implementing the Edgenuity program but were surprised that they were no longer offering direct instruction for students and only providing the curriculum at an increased cost. These changes and the feedback made it impossible to move forward with this recommendation for an online program. We turned to other vendors for demonstrations and pricing. After lengthy discussions with administration and teachers, we have settled on the program, [Edmentum](#). This is a K-12 program that has approval from the Montana Office of Public Instruction. It also has an easier interface for our students. [Edmentum](#) is less video and more interactive slides.

On Saturday, the FCSD School Board will hold a special meeting (Zoom login information below) at 5:00pm to approve a change in the daily schedule. This change is needed to implement the program that allows for our teachers to be the teacher of record for our online students. In K-5, FCSD teachers will provide teacher assisted instruction online to the students who have selected the online only option for this year. The K-5 parents should understand that there will need to be an adult in the home that can assist students with the curriculum each day. Students in grades 6-12, who are using the online only option, will work with the [Edmentum](#) program. Students in grades 6-12 are able to work more independently. They will follow a pacing guide to make sure they are on par with their on-site peers. FCSD teachers will grade their written work and provide final grades. We know this is a departure from what we were originally planning. It is necessary to make these changes in order to provide a quality program for both on-site and online students.

Social distancing is another area we are finding difficult to address. Our rooms are not big enough to provide six feet of distancing between individuals. In many cases we will struggle to achieve three feet of distancing. With the governor's directive on masks now applying to schools, we are in the

position of compliance if we wear the mask and attempt to social distance. It is important for families and students to know and understand that following the mask directive is a requirement we will need to enforce. In this same line of discussion, the lunch issue and removing masks for lunch in the classroom for grades K-5 is still being worked out. There is a possibility lunch will be in the classroom.

On the positive side, teachers in grades K-5 will be contacting their students and families to set up an in person "open house." Grades 6-12 are working on a virtual open house. All of these details will be available by the middle of next week.

The goal of successfully opening school is within reach. The details are being sorted out and the staff are gearing up for what will be a new adventure in education. Please reach out to us and let us know your questions or concerns. I do know that these changes are a shift from our original plans. We understand that families might have a change of heart about choosing online only or on-site instruction. Because of these changes, we want to give families the opportunity to change their decision about enrollment. **The final cutoff date for online enrollment will be Wednesday, 8/26 at noon.** I will have a parent Q/A on Sunday, 8/23/2020, at 6:00pm. Login information is below:

Respectfully,

Brian C. Rayburn

School Board Meeting Information [Meeting Agenda 08222020 Special.pdf](#)

Topic: Special Board Meeting 08/22/2020

Time: Aug 22, 2020 05:00 PM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/94568749762?pwd=NTRiYXdSS096dStOVTZ5WS9rbFoxQT09>

Meeting ID: 945 6874 9762

Passcode: FyWw8u

OR CALL IN USING A NUMBER BELOW

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 6833 +1 253 215 8782 +1 346 248 7799

+1 929 205 6099 +1 301 715 8592 +1 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 945 6874 9762

Passcode: 794854

Parent Q/A Meeting ID: Sunday, August 23rd 6:00-7:00pm

meet.google.com/dcj-bkzt-eof

Phone Numbers [\(US\)+1 402-732-7208](#) PIN: 693 052 671#