



**TYRONE**  
**AREA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
*Soaring Forward to Explore, Challenge and Succeed*  
601 Clay Avenue • Tyrone, PA 16686  
Phone: 814-684-1342 • Fax: 814-684-2149  
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August 10, 2020

Dear Elementary Families,

With the end of summer approaching quickly, it is time to welcome a new school year! While the administrative team has been working endlessly all summer to prepare for a school year that is unlike any other, I feel as though we are ready to welcome our students as they enter the building on August 25<sup>th</sup>. Although the recommendations and orders we have been given have changed several times over the past few months, I strongly believe that we have created an environment within the Elementary School that will allow our students to experience a school year that is filled with learning, laughing, friendships and fun.

I am aware that the COVID-19 Pandemic has caused extreme stress and worry in many of our students and families. Below I have provided insight that I hope will clarify some of the areas of concern and will answer many of the questions that I have been receiving.

### **Will my child have to wear a mask/ face covering all day?**

The teachers have worked diligently to create classrooms that provide appropriate social distancing to the students within the room. Desks have been spaced apart and unneeded pieces of furniture have been moved to storage. In most cases, when students are working at their desks, they will not be required to wear a face covering. When students are moving around the classroom or working in spaces where they cannot maintain appropriate social distancing, they will be required to put on their face covering. Students will also be required to wear their face covering when they are moving throughout the building to go to the restroom, cafeteria, specialist, etc...

We have also made changes to our typical schedule to create learning environments that allow homerooms of students to stay together throughout the day. This schedule will help to ensure the health and safety of our students and teachers. For example, the students will remain with their homeroom teacher for reading instruction and a reading specialist will assist within the classroom rather than students moving to other classroom spaces throughout the building.

The following are examples of acceptable face coverings according to the most recent order we have been given. Thank you to the PTO for purchasing a neck gaiter for all of the students and staff!





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## Where will my child eat lunch?

Students will be eating lunch within the cafeteria as usual. We have worked with the schedule to include more transition time between classes moving to and from the cafeteria. We will follow social distancing during lunch times and have created clear barriers for the tables that will allow students to talk with their friends while they eat, while still being safe. As usual, the cafeteria tables and high touch points will be properly cleaned between students.

As a new addition to our schedule this year, the school counselors will be conducting lunch groups with all of the students during their lunch times. Each class will eat with their counselor one time during a rotation. This is a change that I am sure many students are going to be excited about, children seem to love eating lunch with adults!

Please note that the water fountains will NOT be available until further notice. All students are encouraged to bring a spill-proof water bottle to school. Students will be able to refill the water bottle throughout the day.

## Will my child have recess outside?

Yes, if weather permits. Each classroom will have a designated time to go outside for recess. Each classroom will use an assigned portion of the playground to maintain health and safety. On nice days, teachers may opt to take their class for an additional walk outside for fresh air and extra movement opportunities.

## When is Meet the Teacher Night?

Meet the Teacher will occur virtually this year to maintain health and safety of our students, teachers and families. The teachers are currently preparing videos and/or information that will be accessible to our families on August 17<sup>th</sup> via our district webpage. This information will provide general information about your child's grade level and will show the set-up of your child's classroom. All K-4<sup>th</sup> grade families will be invited to attend the live, virtual meeting on August 20<sup>th</sup> to ask additional questions and to talk with your child's homeroom teacher. PreK families will attend the virtual session on August 25<sup>th</sup>. Below are the details for these meetings.

PreK (K-3) Aug 25<sup>th</sup>- 5:30-6:00

PreK (K-4) Aug 25<sup>th</sup>- 6:00-6:30

Kindergarten: Aug 20<sup>th</sup>- 5:00-5:30

1<sup>st</sup> Grade: Aug 20<sup>th</sup>- 5:30-6:00

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: Aug 20<sup>th</sup>- 6:00-6:30

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: Aug 20<sup>th</sup>- 6:30-7:00

4<sup>th</sup> Grade: Aug 20<sup>th</sup>- 7:00-7:30

\*The Zoom link to these meetings will be available on the district website. ([www.tyrone.k12.pa.us](http://www.tyrone.k12.pa.us))



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## Changes to Parent Drop-off

This year, we will be using the rear entrance at the cafeteria for Daycare, PreK and K-4<sup>th</sup> grade student drop-off and pick-up. If you are driving your child to and/or from school, you will enter the campus using the road closest to the hospital and drive around the back of the Middle/High School to arrive at the rear of the Elementary School. To drop your K-4<sup>th</sup> grade student off in the morning, please follow the traffic pattern and allow your child to exit your car when you reach the front of the line/ sidewalk in front of the entryway. We ask that all K-4<sup>th</sup> grade parents stay in their car and keep the traffic pattern flowing during the drop-off time period. At the end of the day, parents may park in the spots provided behind the Elementary School or in the designated spots between the Elementary and High School buildings and wait for their children to exit the building via the rear cafeteria doorway. Specific directions for Daycare and PreK procedures will be coming soon. Please note that while on school property, parents are required to follow social distancing and face covering policies.

As I have said many times, thank you for your continued support. I know that the past few months have caused a great deal of anxiousness for all of us and I truly feel blessed to be part of a school district that is working together around the clock to provide our students with the best learning experience that we can during these unprecedented times. I hope that your family enjoys the last few days of summer and am looking forward to seeing you and your child/children soon.

If your family has questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the main office Monday thru Friday between 7:30 and 3:30.

Sincerely,

Miss Musselman