Dear D38 Families,

I hope your summer break has been relaxing and refreshing. We are all excited to welcome our students back to the new school year!

With great challenges come great opportunities, and the way D38 persevered through the COVID-19 pandemic last year left me both proud and inspired by our community as we encountered and addressed these challenges. Looking forward to the 2021-2022 school year we will continue to encounter challenges, but also plan to approach these challenges through the lens of opportunity.

In regards to COVID-19 protocols, there are several revisions to our typical practices from last school year. We will begin this school year keeping in mind current El Paso County Health and Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment guidelines. Below is an overview of how D38 will implement these guidelines. However I must note, public health guidance may change quickly depending on circumstances in our community, and we will continue to stay agile as we go through the year. Thank you in advance for your flexibility and understanding as we do our best to keep our schools safe, healthy, and open for our students, staff, and community.

Masks
- While mask usage is recommended by public health officials, they are not required for any individual inside our school buildings. D38 will promote and ensure a supportive and welcoming environment for all those who choose to wear a mask.
- Per current federal law, masks are still required on school buses, and as such, D38 will require the use of masks on district transportation.

Physical Distancing, Cohorting, Cleaning
- We will not enforce any physical distancing or cohorting measures, but we encourage our staff, students and visitors to maintain respectful and appropriate physical distance.
- We will continue to encourage impactful personal hygiene practices, such as frequent hand-washing and sanitizing while we resume our traditional schedule of cleaning and sanitizing our buildings and campuses.

Vaccinations
- Public health officials recommend all eligible individuals over the age of 12 receive the COVID-19 vaccine.
- D38 will not mandate the vaccine among staff or students and will not require student or staff notification of vaccination status.

Isolation of COVID-Positive Cases
- D38 will require any student exhibiting symptoms of any illness to stay home.
- If symptoms are consistent with COVID-19, individuals should seek clinical evaluation, including testing, as soon as possible after symptoms develop.
• Per public health orders, any individual who tests positive for COVID-19 shall isolate. COVID-19 isolation lasts for at least 10 days (specifically ten 24-hour periods) after the onset of symptoms - and for 24 hours after being fever-free without the aid of fever-reducing medication and if the person shows an improvement of symptoms. For people who have not had symptoms, isolation lasts 10 days from the day they had their first positive test.

**Quarantines**

• In collaboration with public health, D38 may implement contact tracing and quarantine protocols to help control the spread of illness in our district, or when high-risk contact occurs with a person identified as COVID-positive.

• While fully vaccinated individuals are not required to quarantine if they are exposed to someone with COVID-19, all individuals who are exposed should monitor themselves for symptoms for 14 days and get tested if symptoms develop.

Again, each member of our D38 community is an important contributor as we seek to keep our schools safe, healthy, and open to in-person learning. Thank you for doing your part in this effort!

Finally, as we get ready to welcome back our students, I also want to touch on a priority for our district in regards to our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion efforts. Our teams have spent time affirming our commitment to serving every student every day through the lens of DEI, and we’ve produced a document to help answer the questions of our parents and community.

Thank you for your continued partnership. Should you have any questions or feedback, please feel free to reach out to us at info@lewispalmer.org with your name, information and if you request a response.

I look forward to welcoming our students back to school in the coming weeks and seeing you at our district events!

Thank you,
KC Somers, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Lewis-Palmer D38