

June 3, 2020

To all USD 345 staff and families:

The tragic death of George Floyd, social injustice, racism, nationwide protests, and destruction, have affected my family and me deeply and I know we have other families in our school community struggling to process the turmoil they are seeing unfold across the nation. Our kids and families are slowly coming out of a COVID-19 quarantine and entering a time of civil unrest unlike most of us have ever seen. The Seaman School District is here to provide you the necessary support to help navigate these uncertain times.

As your superintendent, my highest priority is always to provide a safe and healthy learning environment, and right now, our children may be experiencing an array of emotions and feelings as our nation and communities respond to the civil unrest and continued COVID-19 concerns. In our traditional school environment, we would be addressing these current events with an educational approach, but so much has happened in our world since our buildings have been closed. I would like to provide an opportunity for us to come together before the new school year begins in the fall to have a conversation.

In order to address these important matters of concern and to ensure everyone in our school community is treated with dignity and respect, free from destruction, discrimination, and fear we will be planning an event later this summer; "**Seaman Community Conversation: Navigating 2020.**" This event will allow us an opportunity to come together with our kids and families once COVID-19 phase out is achieved. We share in this responsibility with you to provide support and guidance during what has been a trying time. We are looking forward to open conversation around topics your family has encountered and we will be here to listen, understand, and support each other. More information on this summertime event will be sent out at a later date.

Cloth Mask Collection Drive

I would like to thank our community members for reaching out and asking how they can help our schools during the COVID-19 pandemic. As we quickly approach the opportunity to meet with kids again, through summer camps and summer learning, we anticipate a need for additional cloth masks. We will follow KSHSAA's recommendations on summer activities asking coaches, staff, and students to wear a mask when applicable. We will have our first of two cloth mask drives on June 5 from 1:00-3:00 at SMS. We will be collecting all sizes, patterns, and styles to have onsite for staff and students. We will plan to hold another mask collection closer to the beginning of school.

Summer Learning and Camps

We have invested a significant amount in expanding summer learning opportunities to help fill gaps for students who were less successful with the continuous learning plan this past spring. As a result, we are implementing longer summer sessions and reaching more students by

partnering with parents, teachers, principals, and staff. We have been working with families to identify kids who may benefit from additional learning during the summer months.

[Summer camps](#) will begin as early as June 8, and will follow [KSHSAA recommendations](#) as well as [county health guidelines](#). It is exciting to see kids and staff coming back for summer learning and camps.

Public Use of Facilities

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced schools across the nation to adapt their facility use policies to ensure student and staff safety remains the top priority. Please be advised of USD 345 changes, effective immediately.

Due to continued precautions regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, facility use requests by in-district and out-of-district groups (not school sponsored/affiliated) are subject to the following timelines for reservation and use:

Outdoor facilities reservations: Begin June 8

Indoor facilities reservations: Begin June 22

Facility use continues to be subject to any county health guidance and restrictions still in effect at that time. Facility reservations may be submitted through an [online facility use request form](#) to the office of the Director of Facilities and Grounds.

Board Meeting - June 8

We are excited to reopen our regular board meetings to in-person guests as restrictions on gatherings are lifted. The June 8 board meeting will occur at Seaman High School, 4850 NW Rochester Rd, in the band room. We will begin at 6:00 pm and will also be live streaming via [YouTube](#). This space will allow for up to 45 participants per our county guidance. We ask that guests in attendance maintain social distancing.

Continuous Learning 2.0

As we continue to plan for school this fall, our teaching and learning department will be working with a newly formed Continuous Learning Task Force. Members will include parents, teachers, board members, and administrators. This committee will guide our district in the decision making as we make plans for the possibility of alternate learning environments. This team will ensure we are prepared for the many different scenarios we may be faced with for the 2020-21 school year. I am grateful for our community support and resilience as we continue to do what is best for kids with health and safety as a priority.

In closing, we have a considerable amount of work ahead of us and I know our community is dedicated to working together through the challenges we face now and will face in the future. We must continue to take care of each other, welcome new faces to our Seaman family, and celebrate our diversity.

Sincerely,

Dr. Steve Noble
Superintendent