

**Dear Staff and School Families,**

**Lawrence Public Schools looks forward with excitement to returning to full in-person learning beginning March 15 for PreK-5 and March 29 for grades 6-12. We also will continue to support students enrolled in distance learning for the remainder of the school year.**

**Student and staff safety will remain our top priority. The district has moved cautiously from remote to hybrid, and now, to a return to full in-person learning. We will continue to use a variety of strategies to mitigate the risk of the spread of COVID-19, including requiring masks, temperature checks, handwashing and sanitizing routines, and frequent and thorough cleaning and disinfecting. I urge everyone in our school community to continue to do their part.**

**Other factors supporting this transition, include:**

**Guidance from local medical advisers that school mitigation measures work and that the majority of transmissions of the virus occur outside of schools.**

**The downward trend of reported COVID cases and quarantines in our school community.**

**Continuation of the current Phase 2 vaccination of PreK-12 education staff.**

**Our air validation study and pending installation of air filtration devices designed to reduce the spread of the virus.**

**Evaluations showing an average of 99% adherence to our school safety measures.**

**Continuation of COVID-19 screening testing.**

**With fewer students attending our buildings due to our distance learning enrollment, we will continue to observe as much physical distancing as possible. Our current hybrid enrollment represents 64% of our total student population. Hybrid enrollment at each level is 77% at elementary, 61% at middle school, and 50% at high school. In addition, 83% of our elementary, 60% of middle school, and 99.8% of high school classes serve fewer than 20 students.**

## **MAXIMIZING IN-PERSON LEARNING**

**Prior to our return to full in-person learning in March, schools will continue to maximize in-person learning in the hybrid model based on student needs and available space with priority given to students in early primary grades. Since these decisions are made on a case-by-case basis, numbers will vary across classrooms and schools.**

## **DISTRICT EXPECTATIONS**

**Upon our transition to full in-person learning in March, the hybrid model will no longer be available. In-person learners will be required to attend the full week on-site and will receive all general and/or special education services. Please continue to notify your child's school of student absences due to illness or family commitments. In the event of student absences due to isolation or quarantine, staff will provide online resources to support independent student learning.**

### **FAMILY ENROLLMENT CONCERNS**

**School families made final enrollment choices for the remainder of the school year in October (PreK-5) and December (grades 6-12). Families with concerns about their enrollment given the district's return to full in-person learning should contact their child's school principal by February 25. Schools will collect this information. The district will then work with school staff to examine enrollment patterns and available space. Decisions regarding any family requests for changes will be shared before spring break. The district may not be able to accommodate all requests.**

### **2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR**

**For the 2021-2022 school year, the Kansas State Department of Education will not allow public schools to count remote learning toward required**

**instructional minutes. Lawrence Public Schools plans to offer full in-person learning next fall. Lawrence Virtual School will continue to provide a virtual education option for families. LVS students work at home with a teaching adult, generally a parent/guardian, providing instruction and guidance with support from LVS teachers. LVS families of students in grades 1-12 may request dual enrollment in district elective courses and athletics. Please review this brochure for more information about LVS.**

**I appreciate that students and school families have shouldered extra burdens during the pandemic and commend our staff for its tremendous efforts to adapt to changing circumstances while maintaining safe and effective learning environments for students. Thank you for your ongoing partnership as we continue moving forward together.**

**Sincerely,**

**Anthony S. Lewis, Ph.D.  
Superintendent**