

Bomber Family,

Your hard-earned summer is here. While it is summer, I know it's not necessarily a break for you. In fact, this week we had numerous educators across our district working hard and engaging in professional development and planning opportunities.

I know many of you are keeping up with the news and have heard that every district is required to create a re-entry plan to ensure we are ready to return to school in August. There are so many things to consider as we develop this plan, and I wanted to share a little bit with you all about the planning our district administration team is doing in collaboration with several of our educators, community members, and parents.

The MHPS Ready for Learning Action Plan includes six actions:

- 1. Create a tight instructional plan for fluid delivery of content**
- 2. Convene a Ready for Learning Committee featuring stakeholders that represent each of the six Arkansas Ready for Learning systems**
- 3. Provide digital/blended learning training and support for instructional staff**
- 4. Provide targeted support to parents and families**
- 5. Create digital/blended learning policy with expectations for students, families, and staff**
- 6. Prepare facilities and buses for on-site instruction while following CDC and ADH regulations**

Under each of these actions, we have committees working to ensure we are ready for learning in August.

A few highlights from this work that I want to mention:

- Learning Management System Training: A group of teachers will meet next week to begin learning about the Canvas learning management system. After they master the program, they will then begin providing training opportunities to all of you. While we have utilized Google Classroom in the past, there are too many limitations -- including no offline access for students without internet access -- to continue using it. Canvas has a user-friendly interface that allows offline access for students and has a comprehensive grade reporting system and parent portal. This learning management system will be an excellent tool as we approach next year's blended learning design across the district.
- Blended learning policy/procedures: Students next year will have the opportunity to learn from MHPS teachers through an all-digital (from home) format or a blended format. The blended format will involve students attending school but being able to quickly and seamlessly transition from on-site to at-home learning based on need (school closure, illness, etc.). A committee featuring district administration, FlexPath coordinators, and assistant principals has worked on guidelines for blended learning so that educators, students, and parents all know and understand the expectations of this new model.

- Parent and family needs and support: District administration is working on a parent and family needs assessment. This survey will ask parents to identify which learning model (all digital or blended) will be a better fit for their children. It will help us identify specific needs that families have, including high speed internet connectivity, student meals, and parent technology training. This survey will go live during the first full week of July.

The highlights above are just a few of the Ready For Learning plan components, but we are hard at work in all areas.

Now I want to discuss some exciting and important news! Tonight the Board voted to hire Mrs. Caroline Nail as the next assistant superintendent of Mountain Home Public Schools. Mrs. Nail comes to us from the Searcy School District where she has been involved in turning around the internal culture and academic performance of a K-5 building under her leadership. Mrs. Nail is passionate about curriculum and giving a voice to students, educators, staff, and families. She firmly believes in our responsibility to do what it takes to help our students succeed locally and globally. Mrs. Nail has family in our community and has been a longtime fan of the Twin Lakes Area. We are honored to have her join us. She will begin her work with us on July 1, and I know she looks forward to meeting you all. We will have her email address activated tomorrow, so you can reach out to her and welcome her at cnail@mhbombers.com.

Things feel more challenging than ever at the moment, but our team is so strong and so passionate about teaching kids. I am grateful to be your teammate.

Jake