



FORRESTVILLE VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT #221

SUPERINTENDENT
Mrs. Sheri Smith

July 7, 2020

Dear Forrestville Valley Families:

As stated in earlier communications our goal is to begin the 2020 -2021 school year with in-person instruction. We will be working consistently during the month of July to bring you detailed information as well as address many questions and concerns.

Our priority continues to focus on the health and safety of our students and staff. This means Forrestville Valley plans to move slow but steady as we begin our school year. While we have received guidance from our state, we are prepared for this information to change over the next few weeks.

Here is what we can share at this time:

1. The guidelines set forth by Illinois are not negotiable if we wish to open our doors in August. We understand there are mixed emotions surrounding these requirements, specifically face coverings. We will add many natural, safe breaks from the face coverings within the regular school day to ease this transition. In addition, our staff will be prepared to work with your student(s) on the importance of the face covering as well as the proper way to wear this PPE. Please help us now by introducing and encouraging a face mask. You will have the option to select paper or cloth coverings to best meet your child's needs.
2. While we are committed to starting the year in person for all students, we acknowledge this will require additional time to provide for the learning needs of our students and increase our safety measures. We also believe it is important for our students to acclimate to new requirements such as face coverings. Therefore, the district plans to start the school year with a modified schedule and transition to a full day as soon as we can ensure all needs are met. In the best interest of allowing you plenty of time to plan, please note our dismissal schedule until further notice:

Forreston Jr/Sr High School:	7:40 a.m. – 12:40 p.m.
Forreston Grade School:	7:50 a.m. – 12:50 p.m.
German Valley Grade School:	8:00 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.

3. Opt-in remote learning will be offered for students who are not able to participate through in-person instruction. However, remote learning will look different than last spring; students will be required to participate in class daily via technology, return daily assignments, and letter grades will be issued.

We understand this communication still provides for many questions. Our staff will be working to finalize many details over the next three weeks with the goal to provide in-person Q&A forums for parents near the end of this month. I would ask for your continued patience as we do our best to plan for a safe return for all in August.

Sincerely,

Sheri Smith