

*Manhattan School District No. 3*

# NEWSLETTER

October 30, 2020

## Here's What's Happening In Tiger Nation...

### District News

With all things considered, this year has started off with some great momentum. When we created our reopening plan, it was our goal to provide options that could accommodate all of the various needs of our community.

And while our overall enrollment numbers are down a little, I am happy to report that the majority of our students are back with us either in person or virtually. Our K-4 enrollment is 237, down 17 students from 2019/2020.

Enrollment in grades 5-8 is 241, up 6 students from 2019/2020. High School enrollment is 249, down 10 students from 2019/2020. Overall we are down 21 students from 2019/2020. We have made some adjustments to our procedures to help things run as smoothly as possible, including dismissing students at 1:00pm every Friday throughout COVID to give our teachers 2 additional hours of prep time to meet the needs of all students.

Another change that we have made is the way in which will conduct parent/teacher conferences. This year each conference will be held virtually on November 11th or 12th. For grades K-4, your child's teacher will be scheduling a specific time with you. Grade K-4 teachers will be sending conference times home on November 2nd. For grades 5-8, the school will be in contact during the week of Nov. 2nd to set up conferences; if parents wish to request a conference, please contact the teachers to set up a conference. For grades 9-12, parents will be able to sign up for a window of time with the teachers they wish to talk with using a website called SignUp Genius. High

School Parents, if you have not received the link to schedule your time please let us know and we will be happy to get it to you.

We have an exciting update about our food services. In September we applied for the USDA waiver to offer free school lunches to all enrolled students until December 31st and were granted the waiver. USDA has now extended the waiver until the end of the school year and we are excited to announce that we were granted that waiver as well. Every enrolled student will receive **FREE** hot lunch until June 3, 2021!



### COVID Update

With the help of our nurse, administrators, teachers, custodians, parents, and students we are very fortunate to only have had 8 positive cases of COVID-19 within our district up to this point. We have worked hard to create procedures to address new cases in a swift and courteous manner. As cases continue to rise in the community and school, and unprecedented circumstances arise, we are adapting practices to keep everyone as healthy and safe as possible. Please reference our revised Back to School Plan on the district website. Weekly updates go out to our parents and staff to keep them up to date with the most current COVID statistics within the district. Alongside the weekly updates, our nurse, Maggie Secrest, continues to put out helpful information regarding safe practices and answers to commonly asked questions. I would like to offer a special thank you to Maggie for the countless hours she has put in answering phone calls and emails and the time she has spent to learn as much about this ever changing pandemic as possible. Her concern for our students and staff is genuine and we are very fortunate to have her on our team! I would also like to thank Jamie Heaps, Administrative Assistant to the

Superintendent, for all she has done to streamline communication from the district office. This newsletter is one of many examples of her exemplary work.

## High School News

It's been great to see the creative problem solving that is happening by staff and students alike throughout the last 10 weeks. They were able to preserve several homecoming traditions while maintaining compliance with our COVID guidelines. Our students have risen to meet the challenges set before them this year and are performing at high levels in academics, athletics, and extracurriculars. Our cross country team finished second at state and a big congratulations goes out to Hallie Hemenway. She is Manhattan's first female XC state champion! Both our volleyball team and football team have entered into their postseason competitions, good luck to all our athletes and coaches!

Each month our local Rotary Club selects a "Student of the Month" The students chosen throughout the first quarter were Shayla Shea and Samuel Robertson. Congratulations Shayla and Samuel, thank you for demonstrating our core values so well.



## Middle School News

Our students continue to impress us with the way they are transitioning to the whirlwind of changes that come with middle school, especially this year. It has

been great to see our teachers implementing strong learning experiences for our students. Between activities, science labs, project-based learning, creative writing projects, and so much more, these students are receiving an amazing education.

## Elementary School News

Laughter and smiles continue to fill the hallways at the elementary school. Students there are excited to be back in the classrooms with their teachers and friends and are eager to learn. Our new playground has been a huge hit with the kids and we would like to thank the PTO and everyone who donated their time and/or money to help this project come together.

### A Note From Superintendent Brian K. Ayers

As our first quarter is wrapping up I want to thank all of our staff. They have put in a tremendous amount of time and effort to provide our students with a safe and positive experience while facing the unprecedented challenges that come with COVID-19. I also want to thank our students. In spite of all the changes this year has brought, our students have shown up everyday ready to work hard all while maintaining positive attitudes. Last but certainly not least, I want to thank all you parents and community members for your support and understanding as we navigate this year. As a district we couldn't do what we do without your support. It's an honor to be a part of the Tiger family.

Be well,  
Brian

