



The Husky Herald

August 2020

Good afternoon, Horizon and ATEC West parents and guardians!

I am proud to announce the beginning of my monthly newsletter--The Husky Herald. This will be a communication tool from the school to our amazing patrons. This will contain upcoming events, important dates to remember, good things happening in our school, etc. In this email I will address what we are doing as a school to do all we can to create a safe environment for students and staff. Included at the end of this document is my principal's message for this upcoming year.

This is going to be quite a unique year! I am so grateful for the challenge set before us to find creative and effective ways to ensure student learning in our current COVID environment. We have a strong team of teachers, service providers, and paraprofessionals that work tirelessly to support your sons and daughters. We can't wait to start school (whether we will be supporting your child online or in-person)!

Upcoming Dates

August 14: **Online Open House** (2-4pm): Feel free to email or call your teacher to schedule a brief 5-10 minute Google Meet interview or phone call. We won't be doing the open house in the building this year to encourage health and safety. Principal---

August 18: **First Day of School!** Remember that we will be following the district's schedule of Monday-Friday early out days. Please check your child's backpack during the first week--we will be sending home an emergency contact form that needs to come back to us as soon as possible so we have accurate records and numbers.

August 18-28: **IEP Amendment Phone Calls/Mask Exemptions:** Because the district has shortened Tuesdays-Fridays by an hour, the district has instructed us to shorten IEP service minutes to reflect the decreased time in school. For those students with an IEP who can't tolerate masks and it impedes their learning and well-being, we will also be filling out the form for mask exemptions when we make calls. We will be making those phone calls after school starting on the 18th and going through the first two weeks of school. Each teacher will sign up for a day to make parent phone calls with administration and other team members. You will be notified by your son/daughter's teacher what day to watch out for these calls. They will happen between 2:00-4:00pm.

Important Items

School Schedule: Monday-Friday early-out schedule

- Horizon: 9:05-2:30
- ATEC West: 8:00-1:00

Classroom Teacher Assignments: Class lists have been finalized. Your son/daughter's classroom teacher will reach out to you within the next week to make you aware of what class your child is in and to answer any questions or concerns about this upcoming school year.

Masks: All adults and students in the district are required to wear face coverings at school. However, with the guidance from the state, there can be exemptions made for students with disabilities with IEPs. We will address this when we call for amendments. However, I see mask wearing as a great life skill and we would love to support your son/daughter in wearing one (even if it's just for a few seconds to minutes). If your child can tolerate a mask well, please make sure that they come with a mask. If your child doesn't tolerate a mask, but you would like us to help them build up tolerance, we encourage you to send a mask with them to school to practice. Many stores require mask wearing, so if we can help our students build up tolerance to wear them in public, then that will open up their community and access.

Parents/Guardians and Masks: If you need to drop off your child or pick them up from the school and you come inside the building, it is required that you have a mask and that you check in at the front office. If you don't have a mask, we can accommodate that by having you call the front office and we can come get the student from outside or bring them out to you. We will ask for your ID to follow safety protocols for who is coming to get our students. If you drop off students after the first 15 minutes of the day, we will have you sign the check-in form as well.

Parents in the building: We welcome parents in our building. If you come to the building and you need to speak with the teacher, please make sure to check in at the front office. If you need to spend more than a few minutes in the classroom or with the teacher, we ask that you make an appointment so we can maximize your child's learning.

Cleaning: See the attached document below to look at how our custodial and classroom staff will approach cleaning our school in our current circumstances. We will be cleaning regularly--both in the classroom and around the school.

Classroom Set Up: Desks and tables will be facing the same direction and spaced out as much as feasible. We won't be able to guarantee 6 feet of distance between students due to class sizes and space in the classroom. I've asked teachers to clear as much space as they can to provide as much distance as possible between student desks/tables.

Sick Policy: We ask that if your son/daughter is sick with any cold or COVID symptoms that they stay home until they are symptom free for at least 24 hours. Please see the attached form that we received from the Utah County Health Department with the sick policy we will be following in the Alpine School District and at Horizon. We will strictly follow this sick policy

due to the significant number of high risk students that attend our school. If a student comes with symptoms, parents will be required to come pick them up from school and will be placed in a separate sick-room to contain spread which we wait for parents to come. Attached is also a chart that lists symptoms of COVID-19.

COVID-19: If a student tests positive for COVID-19, I will work with the nurse and health department to determine what level of quarantine will need to happen within that student's classroom or school-wide. With many of our students not wearing masks, we will likely need to have more extensive quarantine precautions if a student tests positive in a classroom (i.e. quarantining an entire class instead of just a few students).

Lunch: We will be eating grab-n-go lunches this year. I have been told that they will be mixing it up with a few hot items as well. We will space out in the lunchroom the best we can to prevent spread of illness.

Recess/Playground: We will be cleaning the playground in between classroom uses of that area with soap and water. At the end of the day they will be cleaned more thoroughly.

Classroom supplies: Students will not be sharing classroom supplies. Every student will have their own set of manipulatives and learning materials to prevent spread of illness.

SCC: If any of the parents are interested in participating in our School Community Council, feel free to email me (dheaps@alpinedistrict.org). We have a few spots that are up for reelection. The SCC meets monthly during the school day to discuss how we can support the goals of the school using Trustlands funds. The SCC also helps around the school and volunteers time to help out at parent teacher conferences and other events.

Substitutes: The district is in great need to substitute teachers. Feel free to go to or share the following link to get set up for substituting: www.ess.com/alpine

Facebook: I am working on getting a school Facebook page created and published. I have been asked to wait until someone from our district public relations team can review it with me. When I have the permission to move forward, I will let you know. This will be one more point of communication for our community.

I look forward to supporting and serving this community! Please reach out if you have any concerns.

Sincerely,

Dan Heaps, Principal

[Principal's Message 2020-2021.pdf](#)

[Horizon Cleaning Guidelines.pdf](#)

[Horizon progress photo updated compressed july first.pdf](#)

[Sick Policy .pdf](#) and [Covid-19 Symptoms Checklist.docx](#)