



*Rob Watson  
Superintendent  
Missoula County Public Schools  
215 South 6<sup>th</sup> St West  
Missoula, MT 59801  
728-2400 Ext. 1023*

Forward Thinking, High Achieving.

August 21, 2020

Dear MCPS Families:

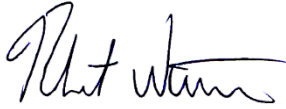
We are looking forward to welcoming your students back to in-person learning. We have worked very hard this summer to develop safety protocols in light of the COVID-19 global pandemic. While we know there may be risks related to possible transmission of the COVID-19 virus, we are attempting to manage that risk with careful planning, both in our procedures and in our school schedule. I hope that this collection of information provides you with relevant details and strategies related to how we intend to operate our schools in the coming months. If you need more details, you can also read our MCPS COVID-19 Response Plan on our website at [www.mcpsmt.org/covid-19](http://www.mcpsmt.org/covid-19)

It is our intention to reopen our schools for in-person, face-to-face instruction for the 2020/21 school year. As we put together our plan for reopening our 18 school campuses, we want to share the guiding principles that inform our decisions:

- Our plan will be responsive to the physical and mental health and wellness of our students and staff.
- Working closely with our county health department, our plan will be based on the COVID-19 conditions in our community.
- Our plan will adhere to the guidelines and directives of the Governor, the Missoula City County Health Department (MCCHD), the Montana Office of Public Instruction, and the Centers for Disease Control.
- Our plan relies on flexibility, adaptation, and collaboration from students, families, staff, and the greater Missoula community.
- Seeley-Swan High School, Willard Alternative Learning High School Program and Jefferson Early Learning Center have smaller student populations and have been given permission to adapt the protocols to their environment and/or deviate from District phasing plans for in-person instruction.
- The changing nature of the COVID-19 virus will mean that our plan will change and adapt to new guidance. Our response plan is a live document that will be updated as we receive additional guidance. We will continue to provide updates of our plan for our school Board, staff, students, and families.

After reading the enclosed fliers and our district response plan, located on our website, if you have additional questions, I would encourage you to reach out to your school principal and/or my office.

We are looking forward to welcoming everyone back to school next week. Thank you for your patience and cooperation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Watson", with a stylized, cursive script.

Rob Watson  
Superintendent  
Missoula County Public Schools