



## ANDERSON SCHOOL DISTRICT # 41

10040 Cottonwood Road

Bozeman, MT 59718

Ph: 406-587-1305 Fax: 406-587-2501

Dear Anderson Families,

I hope this finds you enjoying our beautiful Montana summer while staying healthy. I know this is a time of uncertainty for all of us as we work to develop a successful plan for the reopening of Anderson School this Fall. Please note the safety and social/emotional well-being of our students and staff is of our utmost concern, as is providing a quality education for all of our students.

The responses we received from the survey have been invaluable. While we will continue to monitor conditions right up to the first day of school and we are putting various pieces into place to help families with planning. I am grateful to our Return to School Task Force consisting of Anderson Staff, parents, a board member, and our school nurse. We have been meeting regularly to help develop a reopening plan that works within the guidelines set forth by the CDC and Gallatin City-County Health Department while fulfilling the mission and vision of Anderson School.

As part of this process the School Board met last night and voted on a few items that help create a clearer picture of what school will look like on August 31st.

- **Bus Transportation**-The Anderson School Board has voted to suspend bus transportation services for the 2020-2021 school year. While we can't tell parents what to do we highly discourage carpooling because it is a bad place to spread the virus. If you must do so please try to stay within your cohort, if you are carpooling out of your cohort we highly recommend masks and having the windows open whenever possible. This will help with contact tracing and limiting students exposure. The playground/drop off will open at 7:45 to help parents. I do highly recommend your child bike to school if possible. Not only is it great exercise it will help decrease our traffic in the morning. Start practicing now, so you are ready to bike on August 31st.
- **After School Care**-The Anderson School Board has voted to suspend After School Care through December 2020. This will be revisited at the December board meeting. This helps minimize the exposure risks for staff and students within Anderson School.
- **Masks**- Masks will be required at Anderson School during the duration of the public health emergency. Gallatin County health department requires masks in classrooms and common areas for all staff and students within grades 6-8. Our policy is masks are also required for all staff and all students when in the building, and on the playground. As with the Gallatin County Health Department order, if your child has a medical issue as to why they cannot wear a mask that is allowable. Our mask policy will be further outlined in our student handbook.

- **Distance Learning Handbook**- The Anderson School Board has approved our digital learning handbook for the 2020-2021 School Year. This will be posted on our website. The handbook is meant to be a guide for parents and teachers in regards to distance learning in the case of school closure or those who are opting out of in person instruction.
- **Opt out of Instruction**-The Anderson School Board approved the ability for parents to opt out of in person instruction at Anderson School. This is currently only allowable to in district families due to state policy. We will notify you if this policy changes at the state level it is being considered for change by the governor. Just to be clear, the opt out is not home school but a choice to not have your student(s) not physically attend class and enroll in distance learning with Anderson School. The policy and form for opting out is posted on the website.

There will be many safety precautions in place and they will all be detailed in our reopening plans document. However, I wanted to make you aware of a few we are planning:

- no visitors within Anderson School
- temperature checks in your car or at the bike area upon arrival at school. If you are over 100.4 degrees you will be sent home
- isolation area for sick students
- contact tracing documentation
- separation of cohorts within the building and outside
- Recognizing that the safest, most effective learning environment for preventing the spread of COVID-19 is outdoors we are working at Anderson to provide more access to outdoor space for a class to gather for snack, lunch or instruction.

The board will meet on August 10th to decide on what instructional model Anderson School will implement on August 31st. The instructional models will be shared on the website on August 3rd so everyone can review them. These instructional models are for the 2020-2021 school year so depending on the status of COVID-19 within our community, the instructional model could be changed by our School Board.

I will be sharing information as soon as we are able. Please check the website, and be sure to follow Anderson School on Instagram @andersonschool41 and on Facebook at Anderson School District #41 to see all the amazing things happening at Anderson!

I am so grateful for the warm welcome I have received from the entire Anderson School Community. Thank you all for your support and I look forward to meeting you in person. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions, comments, or concerns.

Sincerely,

Kristi Jacobs  
 Superintendent, Anderson School  
 kjacobs@andersonmt.org