



# Perkins-Tryon Public Schools

103 Southwest 2<sup>nd</sup> Street • Perkins, Oklahoma • 74059

Superintendent Joe McElroy

(405) 547-5703 ext. 13

12 August 2021

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year. As I began putting this letter together earlier this summer it looked like we were getting close to putting COVID-19 behind us. Not so fast my friend. COVID-19 is not completely gone and Senate Bill 658 has changed the way we approach COVID-19. I hope this letter will help clear some things up.

We are not allowed to mandate masks unless the Governor of Oklahoma declares a state of emergency. We are also not allowed to mandate COVID-19 vaccinations. We strongly encourage the use of masks and being vaccinated but neither will be a requirement for students attending school. If students are masked and/or vaccinated it does change contact tracing protocols and quarantining requirements. When investigating close contact with infected individuals, we can reduce the contact zone to 3 feet, instead of 6 feet, if the students are wearing a mask. Students and adults that are fully vaccinated will not have to quarantine. In the event your student is in contact with an infected person, a school official will contact you just like last year.

The State of Oklahoma is no longer releasing data concerning new cases in the same fashion as last year so we will no longer use the color code system. We plan to continue in person instruction until we do not have enough able bodies to safely educate our students in person or if told to close by a State Governing Institution. We will be diligent and flexible in our decision-making process and do our best to limit the number of students affected in any potential temporary closing.

We are doing everything possible to ensure we have as “normal” of a school year as possible. Masks and vaccinations are an individual choice, we ask that everyone respects other’s decisions and treat everyone with respect, regardless of mask and vaccine choices.

Thank you for your support and trusting us with the safety and education of your children.

With Demon Pride,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Joe McElroy".

Joe McElroy  
Superintendent

*Home of the Demons!*