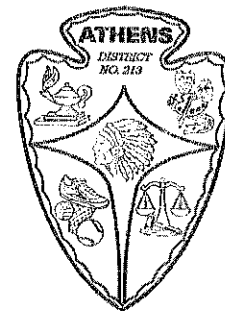


ATHENS COMMUNITY UNIT DISTRICT NO. 213



Scott M. Laird
Superintendent

**#1 Warrior Way
Athens, Illinois 62613
217/636-8761 FAX: 636-8851**

June 24, 2020

Dear Athens Families,

I hope you and your family are doing well. Yesterday, the Illinois State Board of Education released guidance for schools on the 2020-21 school year.

This 60-page document (www.isbe.net/Documents/Part-3-Transition-Planning-Phase-4.pdf) has been much anticipated. It will go a long way toward answering critical questions all of us share about what the 2020-21 school year will look like in terms of in-person learning, scheduling, transportation, wearing masks, social distancing and other measures intended to keep everyone safe and healthy, while also re-engaging students in the learning process.

Since the document was released to school districts at the same time it was released to the public, we kindly ask for your patience as our staff diligently reviews the guidance and implements the suggestions into our district transition plan. The Athens School District is distinctly aware of the urgent need to communicate to our families and staff members about what to expect next school year. We will continue to share regular updates on our planning process and timeline with you as we move forward.

Our staff has been discussing different scenarios over the past several weeks, and this document will help accelerate the process. I am confident that our district will put forth a plan that prioritizes the health and safety of our students while maintaining a dynamic learning environment.

Again, thank you for your patience, flexibility and understanding as we navigate the educational process together during unprecedented time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Laird", written over a white background.

Scott Laird, Superintendent
Athens CUSD 213