



# POLK SCHOOL DISTRICT

July 8, 2020

Polk School District has been working non-stop over the past three months to create a safe plan to educate our students during the 2020-2021 school year. This plan not only deals with the educational process, but careful consideration of how to mitigate the impact of COVID-19. Our surveys indicated that the majority of families and educators would like to see their students back in school because they feel in-person learning works best for our children. In addition, when school is not in session, childcare can be very challenging for working parents and guardians. The decisions in developing this plan were not made lightly.

Polk School District developed this guidance based upon considerations and recommendations from the Georgia Department of Education, the Department of Public Health, and the input from employee/parent surveys. All guidelines outlined in the plan are designed to prioritize the health and safety of students and employees while educating our students in an environment conducive to learning. As our district adjusts to a different normal for the upcoming school year, we thank you in advance for your understanding and support as we make every effort to proceed with in-person learning. All of our stakeholders, employees, parents, students and our community will have to work together to adjust to new procedures by demonstrating respect, courtesy, and understanding in all of our interactions with each other.

Polk School District plans to welcome our students back to campuses on Monday, August 3, 2020 as originally scheduled with mitigation protocols in place. There will be challenging times ahead of us due to the daily change in information surrounding COVID-19 and new procedures required for school. As new information emerges, the District will investigate and reassess to determine if any plans will need to be altered. Should a resurgence of the virus occur within our community, we will quickly seek input from the Department of Public Health to determine whether actions to close a school or schools for a certain amount of time is necessary.

The District realizes that these are trying times for all of us. All of our families will face different challenges and concerns within the coming months regarding the start of school. As outlined in the plan, our students have three options: attend school full-time and in-person, apply for Distance Learning, or withdraw for homeschooling. Should a parent feel Distance Learning is best for their child, please complete the Distance Learning Application found on our website, located on the Roadmap Back to PSD page. The application turn-around is very short in order for us to be prepared before school starts. Any application for distance learning should be turned in to the district office by Friday, July 17<sup>th</sup>. Applications can be brought into the office or mailed to:

Polk School District  
Attn: Distance Learning  
612 S. College Street  
Cedartown, GA 30125

Polk School District is ready and willing to begin the 2020-2021 school year! The encouragement and support we have received during these past few months has been greatly appreciated. By working together and supporting one another, we will work through these challenging times.

Sincerely,

Laurie Atkins  
Superintendent, Polk School District