

As we settle into the 2020-2021 school year, we want to share information from our school team to you, the families who entrust us with your children. All schools in our county are participating in a weekly call to review the current metrics, consider the overall situation in the county, consult with local health experts and make a plan for the following week. One of our goals is to send out an informational message each week on Friday afternoon that will include the learning plan for the following week as well as some of the data on which we base our decision.

For the week of **September 14 through 18**, all schools in Rooks County plan to **continue with in-person learning**. Our decision is based on a low level of absenteeism in the schools (less than 3% above baseline from the 2019-2020 school year) and a relatively low positive testing rate in the county (6.2% over the last two weeks).

Based on this information and other metrics, including hospital capacity and number of new cases in our county, our health experts support our decision to continue in-person learning *under the condition that all students and staff continue to wear masks and socially distance*. It is clear these measures have been effective at preventing COVID spread in the event of an infected student or staff member.

We will continue to monitor the data closely and provide another update next Friday. Please feel free to contact us directly if you have any questions about the information or the decision.