July 28, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students:

Welcome to the 2020-21 school year! I hope your summer has been relaxing and safe. The Wheatland Union High School District (Wheatland Union HS, Edward P. Duplex HS, and Wheatland Community Day HS) has been working hard to prepare for your students’ return despite uncertain times. Although we will start the year educating our students through distance learning, the staff and I are committed to providing challenging, rigorous, and relevant, online, instructional programs while preparing for students’ return to campus as soon as the state safety guidelines allow. The direction from the Board is to begin with in-person instruction as soon as we have been off the State Watch List for 14 days.

Please know that the distance learning you experienced this spring is not what it will look like this fall. This fall will be more engaging, with higher expectations, and greater supports. We are focused on emotional wellness, mental health, and helping transition our freshmen to high school. We are planning for limited on-campus opportunities and support. Athletic physical conditioning will continue even though fall sports are delayed until we have clearance from our Public Health Officer. If you are the parent of a student with a disability, we will be reaching out with plans for ensuring that students receive their Free and Appropriate Public Education.

Not only have we been hard at work planning for the upcoming year, but we are also continuing with our campus modernization! The following facility improvements are currently underway and will be completed prior to campus re-opening for students:

- Solar structures that will provide shade in the parking lot while simultaneously reducing electricity costs on campus.
- New HVAC systems in all buildings.
- New lighting in areas that were not modernized in the summer of 2019.

As Superintendent of the Wheatland Union High School District, I have a long-standing commitment to ensure students are provided with personalized learning experiences in a safe environment to prepare them for college, a career, and life. We are looking forward to a productive partnership with you to ensure our children can achieve their highest potential. We recognize that to be successful in school, our children need support from both home and school. We know a strong partnership with you will make a great difference in your child’s education. As partners, we share the responsibility for our children’s success and want you to know you have our commitment to do our very best to carry out our responsibilities.

To the parents of our 9th grade students and students joining us for the first time, Welcome! We look forward to getting to know each and every one of you and your children. We know the transition to high school can be filled with both challenges and opportunities, but through the collaborative efforts of faculty, upper class students, and you at home, we can make this a smooth and rewarding experience. We are inviting all our incoming 9th graders as well as any new student to the District to the 8th Annual Pirate Come About Orientation. Due to current safety protocol, we will host orientation for 9th graders and any new student to the District, last names A-L, on Thursday, August 6th from 8 am – 12:30 pm and for last names M-Z, on Friday, August 7th from 8 am – 12:30 pm. This event is optional, but highly recommended and will be a learning and rewarding experience for our new
PIRATES! Pirate Come About is designed to help your son/daughter be better prepared for what the high school experience has to offer – plus it gives them the opportunity to meet and connect with both staff and other students. In the past we have allowed parents to attend upon request, but this year we will not be able to do so due to the current public health orders. Please note that masks ARE REQUIRED at all times.

Our top priorities are safety and the academic success for your child. We will keep you informed about student progress and activities throughout the year. Please make sure that you can successfully access the PARENT PORTAL using AERIES so you can view grades and assignments for your child at any time. We will have multiple opportunities for parents to be trained to effectively use the Parent Portal for ALL students in the District.

An involved parent is one of the most important aspects of an effective school. To increase our school-to-home communication we will be utilizing school email daily. On the 2020-2021 Registration Form, parents are asked to list the email address you would like to use to receive school information. In addition to email communication, we will be communicating with you through Facebook (please “Like” us) at www.facebook.com/Wheatlandhigh.org, www.facebook.com/epdhighschool, and the Wheatland Union High School District website at www.wheatlandhigh.org as well as the auto dialer to receive important phone messages. Also, please be sure to read the Parent Student Handbook with your student; there is important information that both parents and students need to know. The handbook will be provided during the Online Student Data Confirmation Process, but can also be found at www.wheatlandhigh.org/Students/General-Information/index.html.

Important Back to School Information: (including EPD & WCDHS students)

1) Class schedule, technology (Chromebook), and textbook pickups for 9th-12th grade students will be as follows:

   12th: August 5th 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
   11th: August 10th 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
   9th:  August 6th and 7th at Pirate Come About
   10th: August 11th 9 am - 2:00pm

   Students attending Pirate Come About must return all the information indicated in this letter in order to receive their schedules, technology, and textbooks.

   The Chromebook Agreement can be accessed on our website at www.wheatlandhigh.org by selecting “Parents”, “Chromebook Take-Home Program” at the top of the home page. This agreement is part of the online Student Data Confirmation process and must be completed before technology can be distributed to your student. Information on the purchase of Electronic Device Insurance Coverage through Worth Ave. Group is included in this packet (Enclosed/Pink). August 31, 2020 is the deadline to purchase coverage.

   This year the Student Data Confirmation process is online. Please fill out and review your student’s information online through the Parent Portal. Portal login information is enclosed. If you need assistance, please come to the WUHS office during your scheduled pickup time for help with the online process. Counselors will be available to assist you. Online Student Data Confirmation must be completed for students to pick up their schedules. You may also call the office for help at 530-633-3100.

   Counselors will be available in the event schedules need to be changed. Schedules will be changed on a case by case basis and only in unusual or special cases following a teacher/administrator or counselor and parent conference. There will be NO schedule changes after August 14th unless there is an extenuating circumstance and approved by an administrator.

2) In order to complete the online Student Data Confirmation Process, you will need a Parent Portal account. THIS IS FOR ALL STUDENTS and MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE THE 1st DAY OF SCHOOL. Please see the instructions included in this packet (Enclosed/Blue). The window for the Student Data Confirmation Process is now open. When you log-in, you will see a yellow banner at the top that refers to the Student Data Confirmation Process and shows “Click Here” in blue. Once you click on the link, you will
be able to complete the steps for the back-to-school required information. You will need to complete steps 1-7, beginning with Family Information and ending with Final Data Confirmation. Steps must be completed in order. Click the green “Confirm and Continue” button, after each step, in order to advance to the next. Be sure to follow the onscreen instructions at the top of each step. When all steps are completed, click the green “Finish and Submit” button to complete. Once the Student Data Confirmation process has been completed, your student will be eligible to pick up their schedule during their assigned pickup time; however, they must also bring with them a completed Acknowledgement of Parent or Guardian Notice of Parental Rights (Enclosed/Yellow).

3) If you need assistance, please come to the WUHS office during your scheduled pickup time for help with the online process. People will be available to assist you.

4) Free and Reduced Lunch Application Instructions (Enclosed/Green): We have moved our F/R Lunch Applications online. You may access the instruction and the application by following this link https://www.wheatlandhigh.org/District/Departments/Food-Services/index.html.

5) From August 12th-14th, students will be working remotely on Learning Loss assessments and training videos for a successful online learning implementation as well as class orientations and introductions. Distance Learning will begin with students following their schedules on August 17th. The district will be providing instructions on how to log-in to distance learning classes in the coming weeks and plans for the 12th-14th.

6) Pirate Come About for Freshmen will be August 6th 8:00 am - 12:30 pm for last names A-L and August 7th 8 am - 12:30 pm for last names M-Z. Please RSVP for this event at https://bit.ly/2ORjNS5 (Enclosed invite/Green).

7) Yearbook picture day will be set once we return to on campus learning. Senior portraits will be taken on campus August 3rd-6th. All seniors (including EPD students) will receive a postcard in the mail from Prestige Portraits with an appointment time to have your picture taken. Please contact Alyssa Vaniman at Prestige Portraits with any questions (916) 844-1232.

8) Senior Pranks: Any student who is identified or caught participating in a senior prank which results in the illegal entry of the school, vandalism on any WUHSD property/campus, disruption of the educational process (including, but not limited to using staff resources), illegal activity on any WUHSD campus, or criminal damage to the campus will be charged and may receive an out of school suspension, and will not be allowed to participate in the school sponsored graduation celebrations.

9) Student Accident and Sickness Insurance: All student athletes must have insurance. Student Accident Insurance can be purchased through Myers, Stevens & Toohey at https://www.myers-stevens.com.

On behalf of the entire school community, I am delighted to welcome you to an exciting new year! Thank you for entrusting your child to us. We are committed to constantly earning that trust, and we are looking forward to a wonderful school year together! Please do not hesitate to contact me at nnewman@wheatlandhigh.org. You may also contact the site administrators. They will be more than willing to answer any questions or concerns you may have. Cy Olsen, Wheatland Union High School and Wheatland Community Day High School Principal, may be reached at colsen@wheatlandhigh.org and Schandia Edwards, Wheatland Union High School Assistant Principal and Edward P. Duplex Principal, may be reached at sedwards@wheatlandhigh.org.

Educationally Yours,

Nicole Newman, Superintendent