



Dear West Branch Families,

Welcome back to school!

I think it is safe to say that this phrase has a different meaning this year. It's hard to believe that March 13 was the last time many of our students stepped foot in their classrooms. As we look to the weeks ahead, we are excited to have students back in our buildings. We are doing everything we can to provide a learning environment that supports children's academic and social-emotional needs, while keeping our students and staff healthy and safe.

Over the summer, several committees have worked to develop a plan that we believe best meets the needs of our students, staff, and families. We would like to thank all the staff and community members who served on these committees. We also wish to thank our students, parents, and community members, who have shown a tremendous amount of support toward these efforts.

In these times, no plan is perfect—and we know that not everyone will agree with every decision we've made. However, please know that we did not take any of these decisions lightly.

Our plan for the upcoming school year is flexible, allowing us to adapt if conditions surrounding COVID-19 change in our community. Due to the fluid nature of the pandemic, we ask that you continue to be supportive and understanding as we make key decisions throughout the school year.

One thing we know is this: Our staff are eager to get back to work and see their students once again. They have been working very hard to prepare for serving our students and families in whichever learning environment is required at any point of the year.

I am sure many of you have seen the exciting developments at the high school. We are thrilled to get started with our bond project and wanted you to know that we've completed a few other projects this summer, as well. Our first was replacing the gym floor at Hoover Elementary, something that was long overdue and that will benefit all our students. We are also paving the softball parking lot, which will create 65 new spaces at the high school. Finally, we have remodeled the main entrance at Hoover Elementary to make it a secure vestibule.

We are very proud of these accomplishments and want to thank you for your support.

Although the 2020-21 school year will be different from any school year we've ever experienced, we are confident we will make the most of it. Our staff is ready, and I'm sure our students, our parents, and community members are ready, as well. Go Bears!

Sincerely,

Marty Jimmerson
Superintendent
West Branch CSD