



17523 Hwy 160 Blanca, CO 81123

February 8, 2021

Sierra Grande School District R-30

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am pleased to report to you concerning district news and the status of the Sierra Grande School District. I would like to begin this newsletter with a thank you to our parents, staff, and board of education for your commitment to the children of our school district. Thank you for your efforts in providing a safe, rigorous, and nurturing learning environment for Sierra Grande students.

As we inch ever closer to springtime, there are some great things happening in the school district. I would like to begin by recognizing our science fair students for their hard work this year as they prepare for the regional science fair. We wish them good luck and appreciate their efforts as well as the time and great efforts of our science fair coordinator and teachers. On another note, what an awesome sight to see our student athletes participating again and the additional spirit it carries in the daily life of our students and school. Besides the construction of the new school in our backyard and recently receiving the RISE Grant, our students are back in school, our school is safe, and our staff is working daily to meet the needs of our students. We realize the threat of COVID 19 exists and that the spring is unpredictable, and that we will do everything possible to ensure our students experience school to the fullest extent possible within the health and safety guidelines and practices.

At Sierra Grande School District, a greater initiative to more fully communicate and share information with our parents is taking shape. With the focus to first meet the health and safety needs of our students and their growth academically, we have unintentionally done a mediocre job at reaching out to our greatest partner in this business and that is you as the parent. In the next few weeks, you will notice additional up to date news and information displayed on the school website, social media, and in weekly newsletters from the district office. The goal of this initiative is to continue to build a strong partnership and working relationship with our students, parents, and community. As we work to improve in this area, we promise a continued commitment to educate, nurture, and support the students and children of our community.

I have more great news concerning the health and wellness of our students and staff, I am happy to report that additional resources and support to combat the risk of COVID 19 are coming to school district employees. We received notice recently that the school district and school employees will have access to BINAX COVID 19 Tests in the next couple of weeks, if not sooner. Employees will receive testing kits in the mail and the school district will receive testing kits that will be used for testing first-hand exposures and those exhibiting symptoms. Parents will receive further notification concerning the district's implemented plan for using BINAX Testing Kits in the very near future. In addition to COVID 19 testing tools, school district employees electing to be vaccinated will receive the first vaccine on Thursday, February 11. This is great news for the health and wellness of our students and staff and we are excited to participate in the process.

On another very positive note, I am excited to inform you that the construction of the new Sierra Grande Pk-12 School Facility continues on schedule. Currently, various committees such as the audio/video, furniture furnishings and equipment, innovation/technology, Colorado High Performing Schools (CHPS), and the executive design advisory group (E-DAG) are working on the final details concerning different areas of the facility. The Design Advisory Group (DAG) will begin hosting meetings again in the near future as well. I am grateful for all of those who are serving on these committees and volunteering their time, wisdom, and experience in so many different areas, and I know that because of this the final product is going to be grand. As an attempt to catch you up to speed on the project and let you know how you can be involved, the school district will take greater initiative in providing additional information on the school website for parents and community.

Finally, on behalf of the board of education and staff of Sierra Grande School District, I would like to say thank you for entrusting your child with us as we strive to provide an excellent education in a safe and nurturing environment. Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

Darren Edgar
Superintendent of Schools

