

Dear Washington families,

It has now been one year since our students were last in school in-person, so I am sure you are also anxiously awaiting the time when our precious children can once again share their joy and laughter with us in-person at Washington Elementary. It is with great pleasure and excitement that I share with you that we are now in a time that it is safe to slowly begin opening our school and classroom doors for our students to continue learning and growing in-person.

I would like first to reiterate that we are committed to the safety of our students and staff. Along with our staff, I will work diligently with our local health officials and district office to keep our school, children, staff, and parents safe. We will take necessary precautions to prevent the introduction and spread of viruses and other germs and clean off high-contact areas. All staff, parents, guardians, and students are expected to follow the promoted safeguards, such as completing a daily wellness survey for each student at home before coming to school, wearing a mask at all times, maintaining a safe distance of 6 feet from other students and staff at all times, washing hands with soap for at least 20 seconds, covering coughs and sneezes and properly disposing of tissues, avoiding others who are sick, and staying home if ill.

Our Return to School Safety Plan provides our school community with an overview of key areas for a safe reopening of our school. It addresses health and safety protocols, student arrival and dismissal procedures, schedules, COVID-19 testing and reporting, cleaning and sanitation procedures, and education options, as well as other resources. Please remember the handbook is a fluid working document that will continue to be updated as conditions or guidance change throughout the rest of the school year. Keeping our school facilities safe, teacher-student ratios balanced for safety, and maintaining consistent health guidelines and practices in place to ensure the continuity of learning on a healthy and safe campus will take high levels of teamwork from the entire school community. It is a monumental task that lacks precedent. It will challenge our ability to continually adjust and recalibrate to a “New Normal” while grappling with our efforts to provide the best possible learning experience at high levels for all students.

I appreciate your tremendous support and understanding as we venture forward to reinvent our school designs to optimize learning for our students in a safe and healthy environment. I know you share my renewed sense of excitement to receive our students back in-person. We will work diligently to keep our students, staff, and families safe. I appreciate your patience, understanding, and cooperation as we navigate the new ways of doing things to maintain everyone's well-being while providing an equitable, rigorous, and meaningful learning experience for all. Go Tigers! Con Ganas!

Adalberto Hernandez
Washington Elementary Principal