Dear Parents, Staff and Students,

First, I would like to thank you for your support and patience while we work through these unprecedented times. We have created this plan as a roadmap to help us navigate the reopening of our school. Our intent is to create an environment that will allow our families to feel safe and allow us to help mitigate the impact of COVID-19 conditions upon returning to school. The guidelines referenced in this plan are based on guidance from including, but not limited to, the following: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Oklahoma Department of Health, Tulsa County Health Department, and the Oklahoma State Department of Education. This plan may be updated based on information provided by the various federal, state and local agencies.

We understand there are many concerns and our hope is to create the safest environment possible. We understand there will be risks involved in returning to school, but we feel it is important to provide our families with the normal routine of a school day. There are certain suggestions from the different health agencies that we realize may not be accomplished at all times. For example, “Social Distancing”. At times social distancing can not be achieved in school settings such as hallways, buses and classrooms. We will be changing our normal routines to try to accomplish this as much as possible, minimizing the times we cannot make it happen.

This plan includes several new practices and procedures. These practices and procedures are being implemented to keep our students and employees as safe as possible. The procedures and guidelines in this plan are considered best safety practices in a school setting. We hope that some of these are short-term practices; however, we must be diligent and consistent in their implementation.

This plan also includes a section on our “Skiatook Virtual Academy”. This is included to inform you of the enrollment options you have if you are not comfortable with your child returning to the classroom in person. Skiatook Virtual Academy provides a full-time virtual learning environment with all the benefits of being a Skiatook Bulldog, including counseling and child nutrition services. Please contact your student’s building principal if you have any questions regarding any of this information.

This plan is a starting point for our district and will be updated as needed to meet the new guidelines and requirements. This is a time of uncertainty, anxiety, and frustrations for all of us. We all wish we could be starting our school year without all of this hanging over our heads. We have worked hard this summer and will continue to work to create a positive learning experience for each child in our district. We have amazing students, parents, faculty, and staff members in our district! With all of us working together, we can do what is best for our students. We are Bulldog Strong!

Rick Thomas

Superintendent