



Hayden Canyon Charter  
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August 7, 2020

Dear Hayden Canyon Charter School Parents,

The governing board met this week to discuss plans for the start of school in September and the impacts of COVID-19 on the educational environment in which we will open. We are excited to announce that the first day of school will be **Monday, September 21, 2020**, in our brand-new building!

The board has also decided that, as things now stand, Hayden Canyon Charter will open on September 21<sup>st</sup> with **all instruction occurring in person and on campus and with face masks being utilized wherever social distancing of six feet cannot be maintained**. There are currently no plans to offer an online-only option or to use alternating attendance schedules so long as students are able to attend in person with facial coverings.

We wish to emphasize that the COVID situation in our community is rapidly evolving, as are guidelines and recommendations from state and local agencies, and that our current plans for student instruction may quickly evolve as well. We ask for your understanding and patience in this regard. As you know, Kootenai County is presently under an order from the Panhandle Health District requiring face coverings in public places if social distancing cannot be maintained, and we are obligated to follow that order as written.

We feel fortunate that our incredible expeditionary model will allow students to spend a significant amount of instructional time outdoors, where social distancing can be maintained.

The decision to open with in-classroom learning and facial coverings was made with input from many of our parents, our teachers, and our Administrator, and with diligent consideration of local, state and federal recommendations, including the CDC (Center for Disease Control) and the American Academy of Pediatrics. We realize that this current plan may seem too restrictive to some and not restrictive enough to others. We have endeavored to find a balance that will feel "just right" to many of our students and families.

A more comprehensive On Campus Plan will be discussed at our next board meeting on August 19<sup>th</sup>. Topics of discussion will include plans for: future exposures and positive tests, cleaning procedures, symptomatic students, contact tracing, and more. We encourage you to attend board meetings for additional information and an opportunity to comment. Information can be found on our website including the date, time, agenda, location, and login information for attending virtually.

Even in these challenging times, we believe that schools can continue to play a critical role in children's academic, social-emotional wellbeing, language communication, social and interpersonal skills, and physical health and safety. We deeply appreciate our students and faculty, and we hope you share our excitement as we embark on this inaugural 20/21 school year in a beautiful "expeditionary" area and a BRAND-NEW building!

Sincerely,

HCC Board of Directors