

July 22, 2020

Dear Skyline Students and Parents,

My name is Mitch Nerdin and I am the new Principal at Skyline High School. I am replacing the retired Doug Bingham who has been a magnificent leader for this school over the past decade. I understand the enormous shoes I am attempting to fill. I believe that the comprehensive high school experience is formative in so many ways. It has an enormous impact on the lives of our students. I want to continue to provide the kind of excellent leadership that has provided Skyline students with many growing and developmental experiences and helped them accomplish so much. The excellence produced by the Skyline students and faculty is not by accident. Leadership, vision and hard work by students, faculty and families have driven the Skyline community to receive the recognition as Utah's number 1 public high school. I strive to continue that legacy by empowering students, faculty, and families to aim high and RISE to the challenge presented by the desire to soar with the Eagles of the past.

Skyline is undergoing monumental change and disruption. The school has begun to be rebuilt on campus with the intent to have the construction disrupt very little of the regular high school experience. This means that the construction will have multiple phases over a five to six-year period. The plans have taken shape and the new school will provide an amazing venue for students in the future.

The world-wide COVID-19 Pandemic is causing a great deal of angst and upheaval. It caused the school to dismiss completely at the end of third quarter last year and it continues to disrupt the plans to re-open as usual this fall. However, Skyline is planning to open with face-to-face instruction for all students. Students will have a regular schedule with eight classes spread over an A-day, B-day schedule. Currently, the plan is to have all students at school every day. Students and their families will be allowed to choose to attend school live or to access the teaching and learning process remotely. All Secondary Teachers will be required to offer instruction in both modalities, face-to-face and distance learning. Families can choose for themselves which format meets their individual needs. The distance learning will coincide with live instruction. This means that students who choose distance learning will receive virtually the same instruction as those attending school live every day. Teachers will upload to Canvas each school day a virtual rendition of their instruction for each course. This might take shape as a video or audio recording, a narrated PowerPoint, or myriad other ways to provide distance learners the necessary instruction to facilitate successful learning.

The Granite School District has plans for a hybrid model as well that might be employed if the guidelines change in Utah and/or our community to necessitate a more intrusive response. Furthermore, we are also aware that we could return to complete distance learning. The District is trying to prepare and be flexible to respond to the changing dynamics of the pandemic and its effects in our community.

Skyline will provide a specific plan to address ways to mitigate the spread of the virus in all aspects of the building and throughout the day. That plan is currently being developed with input from the administration, teacher leaders, and community council members. We should have that plan posted by July 29th. Look for specific answers about all the ways we will change how students interact and move throughout the building as well as the changes to big gathering events like lunch, assemblies, concerts, sporting events, etc. We will also address more difficult times for social distancing like passing times and beginning and end of day. Skyline will add a second lunch to the schedule, and we will not issue lockers to students. Hallways will become mostly "one-way" and drinking fountains will be turned off (bottle fillers will still function). Bathrooms will only be used during class time and hall passes will change. Many changes are in store.

Following the Governor's guidance, students and teachers will be required to wear a mask while at school.

Fall activities are planned to begin following a normal schedule. Spectators will experience changes with probable limitations to crowd size. Participants are following the district 'Return to Play' protocols currently. Those protocols were developed in response to the guidance given by the Utah High School Activities Association (UHSA), the Utah County Health Department, and the Utah State Board of Education.

The information and paperwork that you need for registration will be accessed through the Granite School District Parent Portal at <https://portal.graniteschools.org> beginning August 1st. Please be aware that Internet Explorer or Google Chrome are preferred. A step-by-step process has been set up to help you complete the registration process online, please see the attached postcard. You may also visit the Skyline Website at <http://schools.graniteschools.org/skylinehigh> for detailed information.

If you choose to have your student participate in online (distance learning), you will complete a form as part of online registration. Amongst other reasons, this will facilitate accurate attendance being taken by teachers for your student.

We will not have a walk-in registration this year. It is expected that families will be able to complete registration completely online. Please complete the registration process early and pay the required basic fee of \$65. Optional item like yearbooks, parking passes and other activity fees should also be paid for during registration. Class fees will not be added to student accounts until after the second week of school. School Pictures will be taken at another time after school has begun.

The Skyline Career Center Computer Lab will be available August 3 – 7 from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for anyone needing access to a computer to complete Online Registration.

With construction, parking is going to be very limited. The new lot on the southwest corner of the campus has barely enough stalls to accommodate the teachers, staff, and other school employees. The remainder of the parking is far too limiting for all our students. We are in the middle of contracting with the church to the west of the school for additional parking. That adds some parking, but it is still not enough. We will limit the sale of parking passes first to Seniors August 1st-4th, adding Juniors August 5th-8th, and, if parking space is still available, to some Sophomores with extenuating circumstances on a case by case basis. (Please assume Sophomores will not get a parking pass).

The first day of school is Monday, August 24, 2020. More information about the schedule for that day will be forthcoming.

Please add the following Skyline High School phone numbers to your contacts:

Attendance Office (385) 646-5433 – Please call this line directly to excuse absences.

Career Center (385) 646-5423

Counseling Office (385) 646-5421 – Parents may make appointments with counselors beginning on August 3, 2020.

Main Office (385) 646-5420

Registrar (385) 646-6809

I look forward to getting to know your student(s) and will support and facilitate their efforts to grow and develop at Skyline High School. I anxiously anticipate watching all of them RISE to their full potential as Eagles.

Thank you,

Mitch Nerdin, Principal