

Kentucky School for the Deaf

ESTABLISHED 1823

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July 27, 2020

Dear KSD Families:

We know that face-to-face learning is the best and most powerful approach to optimize learning for your child. However, our priority is to consider the safety and welfare of our students and staff. Based on the recommendations of the Boyle County Health Department, the Kentucky School for the Deaf will be opening school remotely for at least the first six weeks due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. We will be using non-traditional instruction (NTI) as we did last spring due to COVID-19. We will continue to work closely with local and state officials to determine the best and safest time to bring students back to campus.

When we are permitted to return to campus, KSD will provide details in advance of our [Healthy at School](#) ([Spanish](#), [Somali](#)), procedures to ensure the safety of our students and staff when on campus. It is critical that all comply with these guidelines to safeguard the health and welfare of everyone.

FALL SCHEDULE

- Aug. 17: -All online registration and mailed items are to be completed and returned to KSD
- Aug. 24: First day of class
- Sept. 8: First day of class for preschool
- Aug. 24 – Oct. 2: All students will be participating remotely using NTI
- Oct. 5–9: FALL BREAK, no classes
- Oct. 12 – Nov. 20: TBD based on health department guidance

Your child's homeroom teacher or case manager will be reaching out to you with directions and class schedule for NTI no later than Aug. 17.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting ever-changing conditions has forced us to change our plans for opening campus to remote learning just in the past week. Our goal was to bring students back to campus because we know they thrive best in an environment that is rich with American Sign Language (ASL). However, it is imperative that we keep everyone safe at this time.

Toyah Robey, Principal Joe Obermaier, Assistant Principal Stu Harper-Boy's Counselor Christie Sharp-Girl's Counselor Tony Peavler, Outreach
Byron Wilson, Elementary Team Lead Ginger Mitchell, Middle School Team Lead CJ Prater, High Team Lead Scott Haun, KSD Advisory Chair
Statewide Educational Resource Center on Deafness
Equal Education and Employment Opportunities M/F/D
www.ksd.kyschools.us



We appreciate all the families who provided us with valuable feedback in May and again in July. Our staff have used this information to refine and expand support for students and families.

Below is the feedback from our July survey:

- Will your child attend KSD on campus or as a virtual learner (NTI) this school year?
 - 28% chose virtual learning
 - 67% chose campus learning
 - 3% chose other
- Would you allow your dorm student to stay on campus for 2-3 weeks at a time (to help prevent any transmission to COVID-19)
 - 69% said no
 - 24% said yes
- Families interested in taking online ASL classes
 - 70% said yes
 - 30% said no

We are grateful and appreciative for the support we have from our KSD families. We understand that remote instruction is not only challenging for the child, but also the family that supports them! KSD is here to support you in your efforts to support your child's learning at home. Below are some resources we have identified based on your feedback and KSD staff.

Resources for our families:

- Orientation for parents to support your child's virtual learning at home
- Technical assistance for your child's computer
- Social and emotional supports/resources
- Academic conferencing
- Supervised social media time for students through Google Hangouts
- ASL bedtime stories read by staff
- ASL classes for families
- Evening homework hotline

Please do not hesitate to let us know how we can support you and your child during this unprecedented time.

Most sincerely,

Toyah Robey

Toyah Robey, Principal
Kentucky School for the Deaf Principal