

Dear Parents,

Our Covid response team met to review our present Covid precautions and made revisions based on current guidelines and advice from an infectious disease control doctor. Most of the changes have been made in the elementary grades, first through fifth. The most significant change has been the decision to group two grade levels in the lunchroom and at noon recess. The first and second grade students now share the cafeteria and playground at recess. This is also the case for our third and fourth grade students. The fifth and sixth grade students continue to eat lunch in separate spaces but they do share the playground for recess. The changes have been made because we now know the younger students are not efficient spreaders of the Covid virus. This coupled with the fact that children are not coming to school ill has reduced the risk in grouping these children together in a large space for a short amount of time. Our expert feels very confident that outdoor play is an area of very little risk in terms of spreading the virus so we decided to have two grade levels share the playground space. The grouping of grades helps us to reduce the number of supervision duties each teacher has in addition to their classroom responsibilities. It is also important to us to introduce as many of our "normal" practices as is safe prior to the next school year. We will continue to closely monitor student health and if we encounter any spread of the virus at school, we will revisit these decisions.

We have not made any significant changes to the precautions with seventh and eighth grade students because their risk status is somewhat increased compared to the younger students. We will be removing most of the plastic barriers in the middle school classrooms as the weather improves. Open windows, air purifiers and three feet of space should be sufficient to maintain a healthy environment for all of our students throughout the spring. If you have any questions or concerns about these revised practices, please direct them to Mrs. Cohen at 303-777-3812.