

# CACHE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## "HOME OF THE BULLDOGS"

CHAD HANCE, SUPERINTENDENT

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CHRISTY TAYLOR  
HIGH SCHOOL, PRINCIPAL

MITCH ANGE  
MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

SHELLI MAHONEY  
5TH & 6TH CTR, PRINCIPAL

COREY HOLLAND  
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

TAMMIE REYNOLDS  
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

INTERMEDIATE, PRINCIPAL

JACKIE GREEN  
PRIMARY, PRINCIPAL

GABRIEL WINN  
SPECIAL EDUCATION DIRECTOR

December 7, 2020

Dear Parents,

We have had several inquiries about next semester and virtual schooling options. Here is an update for next semester.

Last week, I sent an email to parents of currently enrolled virtual students asking for them to let us know if they will remain virtual or return to traditional schooling next semester. That form is due by the end of this week (December 11th). Here is again for those of you who are currently virtual and have not let us know your intentions: <https://forms.gle/sRnWLXTmVC8SSSqK8> We need to start scheduling you for the spring semester. If we have not heard from you by December 11, we will assume you are coming back traditional and make you an in-building schedule and give away your slot in the virtual program.

Finally, if you are a parent or guardian of a student who would like to request the virtual program for spring, we are asking that you contact the school counselor and/or principal individually.

Because we must allocate staff for both virtual and traditional teaching, and do not want to overwhelm either system, there will be limited availability for students to move to the virtual program in January. Additionally, several considerations need to be understood. It has become clear that virtual students who remain in contact with their teachers and attend virtual tutoring regularly are far more successful than those who do not. Also, the students' reading skills must be at a level where they can comprehend material quickly, and they must be motivated to take notes and work independently while advocating for themselves when they are struggling. Finally, in order for elementary students to be successful, they are requiring a tremendous commitment of time from parents, and even then, they do better when they come in a few times weekly for tutoring with their teacher.

Parents, before the principal will agree to virtual instruction, the following will be considered:

- Are there circumstances that prevent the student from being successful at school. For example, are there health concerns?
- How has the student performed on virtual instructional days? Have they completed those assignments and done well while working independently at home?
- Is the student taking honors courses or courses that cannot be completed virtually? There are no honors offerings in the virtual program. It is impossible to do band, choir, FFA, or athletics virtually. Students may attend 1 period per day for an OSSAA activity, but parents must provide transportation.

- Is the student in good standing with their classes & subjects currently? (Unfortunately, we are seeing many virtual students fall behind to the point that they will not be promoted to the next grade level or graduate on-time since they were unable to work independently at home, and they would not attend virtual or in-person tutoring sessions.)
- Does the student have an IEP or accommodations at school that would be difficult to provide at home? Is a team meeting necessary before the student is considered for virtual schooling? If a student has an IEP, a team meeting must occur.
- Finally, all new students to the virtual program will be required to attend an in-person orientation during the first week of January with the virtual teacher to learn about tutoring and ensure that login issues are resolved before the student begins. Students who are continuing may be required to do this as well.

Our goal is to ensure that our students receive the best possible learning environment and experience. We want all students to be successful. This has been challenged during the pandemic. School is about social interaction, not social distancing. Our strength lies in the ability to learn from each other, and we are at our best when lessons have discussion and group work to make this happen. We are figuring out ways to meet the needs of our students virtually; however, we cannot do it without regular interaction between students and teachers. Whether virtual or traditional, consistent attendance is important and necessary for success.

Please let me know if I can answer further questions or help with decisions about virtual learning.

Sincerely,

Tammie Reynolds

Assistant Superintendent