



Colo-NESCO Community School District

August 3, 2021

Dear Colo-NESCO Students, Parents, Staff, & Community Members,

I hope this communication finds you having an enjoyable summer break. I want to start off by introducing myself. My name is Marc Snavelly, and I am the new Superintendent/Elementary Principal here at Colo-NESCO. My official start date was on July 1st. As far as my family, I have been married to my wife, Kelly, for twenty-four years. We have a daughter who is in her second year in the Doctoral Program for Occupational Therapy at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. We also have a son who will be in fifth grade here at Colo-NESCO once school starts. We officially moved to the Colo area on July 5th. We look forward to getting involved with school and activities within our three communities. We have had the opportunity to meet a lot of people so far, and we certainly look forward to getting to know as many people as we can in the near future.

The most important part of this communication today is to update you on our construction project. As you know, a fourteen-million-dollar bond referendum was passed in March of 2020. This plan included major updates to both the Colo and Zearing Buildings, as well as a new addition in Zearing. Construction started early on in 2021. This is an extremely exciting time for the District. As you may have heard or even seen, construction has not moved along as quickly as originally planned. This was not planned this way, but delays can certainly happen when doing a major construction project. There has been various set-backs ranging from scheduling sub-contractors to do the work to delays in the manufacturing of supplies. I can assure you that the District is working very hard at making sure that this project moves along as quickly as possible at both sites, but we can only do so much.

Substantial completion is still on track to have Colo and existing Zearing ready by August 26th. However, there will still be work that needs completed once students and staff return to the buildings. The new addition in Zearing will not be completed until October or later.

Last night, the Colo-NESCO School Board toured the Colo Building to see all of the updates. After the tour, a special school board meeting was held to discuss the construction projects at both Colo and Zearing. There certainly has been a lot of progress made to both buildings, but there is also a lot of work to do before we can safely have students and staff in the building to start a new school year. **I made the recommendation to the Board that we change our start date from Thursday, August 26th to Tuesday, September 7th. After a lengthy discussion, the Board took action by delaying our start date. The first official day of school will now be Tuesday, September 7th.** We believe these extra seven days are needed for our maintenance and custodial staff to move furniture and to get the building

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cleaned. We also want to make sure we give our teachers and staff adequate time to prepare for the start of a new school year. We felt it was critical that we make this decision now so all stakeholders have adequate time to plan. We realize child care plans may need to be modified, and we apologize if this causes an inconvenience.

We have not made any decisions on when or how these seven school days will be made up. There are many different ways that we can choose to do this. By law, students are required to attend school for a minimum of 1,080 hours. We currently have 1,109 hours built into our calendar. Best practice is to have more than 1,080 hours, and we will likely have a few days where school is delayed or canceled due to inclement weather. Once school starts and teachers and staff return to the building, we will create a plan to make up these missed school days. These changes will need to go back to the school board for approval and will be communicated out to stakeholders. As we look to make-up these school days, it may happen that previously non-scheduled days will now be days where school is in session. Please know that we will work with staff and families that may need to miss school. We know we will need to be flexible as a result of making these changes.

Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns. The start of the school year is going to pose a few challenges with the construction projects. The Colo-NESCO Staff is working very hard to make sure the start of the school year is as smooth as possible considering these challenges. I have no doubt that the 2021-2022 is going to be a fantastic school year. We have so much to look forward to as we start the new school year. Feel free to reach out if you have any questions or concerns. I can be reached by phone at 641-377-2282 or by email at msnavely@colo-nesco.k12.ia.us. Enjoy the rest of your summer, and we will see you all soon!

Sincerely,

Marc Snavely
Superintendent/Elementary Principal

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