

Good evening Leota families,

As we embark on the 2020-2021 school year, I want to extend a special welcome to our new 6th grade students and families. We are so excited for this school year to begin and have been busily planning for the return to remote learning (and hopefully in-school learning soon) for your child. I realize there is a lot of information contained in this letter, so please bear with me. I will begin sending a weekly newsletter beginning with today's. If you have anyone you know that is attending Leota, but has not received this email, please encourage them to contact our registrar, Mary Hayes, at mhayes@nsd.org. She can facilitate getting their information updated in our student information system. Most importantly, I want to assure you that your child will be receiving a robust and top-notch education regardless of whether we are virtual or in person. Our teachers and building leadership teams continue to build strong lessons for both academic and social emotional connections with your child. Our first weeks will focus primarily on teaching students how to make the most of their online learning experience, setting them up for success. It's important that students connect and attend from day one. To help with the online learning experience, our district has adopted Schoology, which is a phenomenal platform that both you and your child will have access to. The best part is that there will not be multiple locations that you will have to navigate to monitor your child's progress. Below are some things to make note of, knowing each week you will receive updates.

Tech Device Distribution

For those students who need to check out technology for the upcoming school year, distribution of devices/hotspots to Leota families will take place on August 28 and September 1 from 8:00am – 3:00pm. Complete this form (<https://form.jotform.com/202085825509053>) in order to receive a device, exchange a device, or obtain a hotspot. You will need a device if:

- You have a newly enrolled Leota student who doesn't have access to a device at home
- Your currently enrolled student's needs have changed and your student now needs a device
- Your student has an older *white Chromebook* and will need to exchange for a **newer black Chromebook** device for best connectivity and operation
- You do not have internet service at home. Hotspots are available. Please do not request a hotspot if you do have internet at home that is slow. The hotspot will not help with that.

The Chromebook/Hotspot Pick-up/Drop-off Process on August 28th and September 1st:

- Please be sure that you have filled out the form online so that we have a device available for you.
- Drive-up to the area near Leota's front office
- Stop at the sandwich board in front of the office
- Call the phone number on sandwich board to let staff know you are here
- Turn your car off and stay in your car
- Please put on your mask
- A staff member will bring the device to your car

- If you are exchanging an old device for a new one, the staff member will collect the old (white) device at this time

School Material Distribution Day

Typical Back-to-School Fair tasks will be rolled into our distribution day. Leota will be organizing a distribution day to hand out various items that students will need for online learning. This includes, but is not limited to, the 2019-20 yearbook, textbooks, classroom novels, art supplies, etc. We are also considering a safe process for school photos to be taken and fees to be paid in person. Once Leota's leadership team decides on a date and process, we will communicate the information to families. Please be sure to check your child's account via **schoolsales.nsd.org** to see if there is a fine or fee outstanding on their account. These can be paid online. If you are in need of a backpack filled with school supplies, these will also be available at our distribution days. Please notify the staff member who serves you that you need one.

Individual Student Class Schedules

Counselors will be working hard to schedule all students into classes and balance overall class sizes and needs. Right now our schedules are not finalized. Whatever students and families may be able to see through the various online access portals are not accurate or complete. Our first priority is to make sure that every student has a complete schedule and that any schedule errors are fixed. Counselors are not taking any change requests at this time. When we are able to accept schedule change requests, we will communicate out a schedule change process. We thank you for your understanding.

Community Building Weeks

Many aspects of this school year will look different, including the first two weeks of school. To build the important relationships between students, their families, teachers, and other school staff, we will focus on community-building, setting academic expectations, and training students on various technology tools. It is vitally important that your child attend each of their online classes every day beginning Wednesday, September 2nd. Attendance will be taken each period, each day. School bell schedules and general school schedules will be sent soon.

Upcoming Events:

More detailed information will be coming on topics such as Curriculum Night (including breakout sessions for Special Education, 504 Plans, and AAP), PTSA Fund Drive in mid-October, Leota's Distribution Days, District Schoology Parent Trainings, etc.

While the 2020-2021 school year is starting in a very different format this year, the Leota staff is excited to teach your child and meet you soon.

Have a great weekend. Both Bryan McNiel (Assistant Principal) and I look forward to meeting you soon!

Warmly,

Audee Gregor, Principal