



# GALENA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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SHS Principal  
David Casey

July 27, 2020

Dear Sidney C. Huntington School parents, families, and students,  
It's getting to be late in July and that means August is right around the corner. August means the staff and faculty at your school are getting ready for students to come back to us to begin learning. We know that there are many questions about how school will operate and what changes will be happening. Please know that we have submitted a 1st draft of our SHS K-8 Smart Start Plan 2020-2021 to Superintendent Merriner who has included that 1st draft in the GCSD Board of Education meeting packet for next Wednesday's Board meeting. At the end of this letter is Sup't Merriner's KIYU announcement. We are working with teachers and medical professionals in our community to create a plan that creates a safe environment for our students, staff, and community. Please feel free to provide comments on the draft Smart Start Plan during next Wednesday's Board meeting. Please also be aware that the Board will be discussing moving the start of school for students from August 25 to August 31 in order to allow staff and faculty to prepare appropriately to start our 2020-2021 school year safely.

As changes are made to the Smart Start Plan, important information will be shared with the community in three ways. First, we will share information with KIYU. This is the most direct way to see up-to-date information. We will also send emails and letters to you. We will also be asking you to update your contact information in our system once we have our staff back on duty. We want to make sure we have correct and up-to-date information.

We would like to inform you of a couple of ideas about school that are new to you and your student. We will be requiring students and staff to wear masks. While this is new, it is important for the safety of our students, our faculty and our community. It will take some getting used to, but we know that working together we will protect ourselves and our community. We will also be practicing social distancing at school in our classrooms and in our daily schedule. We know it will be different, but we want to operate as safely as is possible.

Thank you for supporting the Sidney C. Huntington School. We are excited to get back to learning.  
Sincerely,

David Casey  
SHS Principal

Dear Galena community members,  
The GCSD School Board is meeting next Wednesday, July 29, 2020 to discuss the 1st DRAFT of the "SHS K-8 Smart Start Plan 2020-2021" and the "2020-2021 GCSD School Calendar." The Work Session begins at 6:00pm. The Regular Meeting starts at 7:00pm or directly after the Work Session if it ends before 7:00pm. In order to ensure proper social distancing in the SHS Library/Commons

area, please consider teleconferencing into the meeting by calling 1-800-315-6338 and entering access code 12053# when prompted. If attending in person, thank you for following COVID-19 protocols (social distancing, wearing face covering, etc.). The Board Packet is available at the following website: <https://www.galenaalaska.org/school-board/>. Click on "GCSD July 29, 2020 School Board Packet." If you have trouble downloading the Board Packet from the website, please contact either Scott Betterton at [scott.betterton@galenanet.com](mailto:scott.betterton@galenanet.com), Noam Kuilboer at [noam.kuilboer@ideafamilies.org](mailto:noam.kuilboer@ideafamilies.org), or Chris Javier at [chris.javier@ideafamilies.org](mailto:chris.javier@ideafamilies.org). Thank you for your support of education in Galena and across Alaska!  
Jim Merriner, GCSD Superintendent