

Happy New Year! We at Cloudcroft Schools are looking forward to a Great 2021.

As per the New Mexico Department of Health and the New Mexico Public Education Department all of our students will start back to **remote** learning on Wednesday, January 6, 2021 and then our K- 5th graders will start back in person, following the hybrid model, on Tuesday, January 19 to help mitigate a post-holiday surge in COVID-19 cases in New Mexico. This proactive measure is an effort to keep case rates low in the hope that we can expand eligibility for in-person learning to include additional student groups - grades 6-12 - in the New Year. Also starting January 19 will be the 5:1 at risk student groups. We do not have start dates for our middle and high school students but as soon as we receive any information about them coming back to campus we will pass that information on to parents.

Another positive note, sports will be starting back up January 19th! You can see the spring schedule on our website under "Latest News". Certain restrictions will still be in place to ensure our students' and coaches' safety but, I know our coaches and student athletes are excited to get back to practice and competitions.

Some of the safety measures the NMDOH and NMPED have put into place to ensure student and staff safety is the surveillance testing (COVID testing). Surveillance testing is required for 10% or more of onsite staff for at least two weeks prior to offering in-person learning. So, the weeks of January 4th and 11th, 10% of Cloudcroft staff will be tested. We will also be going forward with our continued COVID safety and cleaning/disinfecting precautions to make a safe environment for our students and staff to return to in-person learning.

The 2021 NM Legislative Session begins on January 19th and continues until March 20th. One of the main topics that will be addressed is public education funding that includes the following "Five Pillars": Increased Learning Time, Transportation, Counseling, Work-Based Learning and Additional Supports. "Increased Learning Time" would address summer school, high school credit recovery and other ways to make up for a loss of learning due to the pandemic. The "Transportation" pillar is funding to provide transportation for our students to get back to school during the summer for the "Increased Learning Time". We want to be able to provide "Counseling" services to our students as well as support their emotional well-being. "Work-Based Learning" would be ways for our students to learn and earn credit while participating in paid internships to ensure successful pathways out of high school, etc... Lastly, the "Additional Supports" would be professional development for school staff to be better prepared to help students make up lost learning that occurred during the pandemic. More information about this is on our website. We will keep you posted on this as the Legislative Session begins.

As mentioned above in the "Additional Supports" – I am so proud of our staff for being proactive and attending MANY professional development courses and participating in training during this pandemic. There is a LONG list of professional development courses that our staff have already attended to be the BEST they can be for our students during this time.

Cloudcroft staff being the BEST they can be for our students has paid off! We received the PSAT/SAT data for 7th – 12th graders comparing testing from October 2019 to October 2020 and as a whole, there are increases in their test scores. The Elementary also showed gains in the istation New Mexico standardized test. This is great news for our students and staff! Hard work pays off. To see all the complete charts and data, visit our website.

I am looking forward to the day when ALL of our students are able to return full-time to our campuses but, in the meantime, we at Cloudcroft Schools will continue to do our BEST to provide for safety and success in student learning.

I wish everyone a VERY Happy New Year!

Go BEARS!!