



## Know Better, Do Better.

August 9, 2021

WOW! What a time! If you are like me, you thoroughly enjoyed the 2021 Crowley ISD Family Reunion. It was great to see everyone, to feel the energy and excitement and to take a collective break from reality and enjoy fun, festivities and fellowship. In Crowley ISD, we work hard and we play hard.

In a couple of days, we will have the opportunity to return in full force to our mission field. **I consider the work we do as mission work, and I hope that you adopt the same perspective and recognize the awesome opportunity and responsibility that we have been blessed with.** I challenge each of you not to take for granted this time and opportunity.

I recognize that this school year will be like no other as we welcome all of our students into our building for the first time in over 18 months. We are expecting 100% of our students to return to school, and I know that this will be a transition period for students, parents and each one of you.

All new school years bring with them a level of anxiety, and these feelings are amplified today for all of us, due to the impact the pandemic is having on unvaccinated individuals, specifically, and on our way of life as a whole. The politicized environment in which we find ourselves further exacerbates the challenges that are before us. In the midst of uncertainty, it is natural for us all to look for and hold on to things that are certain.



As I spent time in meditation before preparing this message, I found myself pondering those things that are certain. I want to share with each of you the certainties as I see them and extend the assurances that I have to offer as we walk into this new space together as a family, operating as a team.

As superintendent, I recognize that my key area of responsibility is to ensure that students are educated at the highest level and in an excellent way – which consequently means that **I must prioritize their physical and mental health as much as I prioritize academic achievement. If they are not safe and not mentally well, then their academic potential will not be realized.**

As we make decisions about safety protocols, I want to assure you that we will continue to make decisions that we believe will protect students and employees to the best of our abilities. I am committing to you that we will set politics aside and make decisions based on the most reliable information available and **when we know better, we will do better.**

As I reflect on the decisions that are before us, I find myself thinking about a statement my Grandma Sadie would always share with me and my older cousins before she disciplined us for doing something we know we didn't have any business doing. Grandma would always treat the older grandkids different than she did the younger ones. Her famous statement was, "When you know better, you do better." I now recognize that she was attempting to teach us that as you learn more, you should change your actions accordingly. We were all her grandkids, but she expected the older cousins to take responsibility for the safety of the younger ones.

It is natural for us to think about ourselves and the impact our actions will have on our own reality. Several years ago, wearing a seatbelt in a vehicle was optional. However, as we learned more about the science of car collisions and survival statistics, the practice of using seatbelts became more pervasive. But, even though the science was clear, many still refused to wear them. Seatbelt laws eventually came into place as an additional mechanism to ensure safety of the driver and passengers. Today, if anyone in the car is without a seatbelt, the driver is the one that will receive a citation because they are the responsible party. Today, for most people, wearing seatbelts is an unconscious act that occurs every time you get in a car because it is clear that all parties are safer and more likely to survive a crash if seatbelts are used. We know better and we now do better.

**The Delta variant of COVID, from my perspective, is a pending car crash – especially for those who are not vaccinated. It is up to us to encourage actions that will increase the likelihood of survival if a collision occurs.**



# A MESSAGE FROM DR. MCFARLAND



## Vaccines

The facts I am aware of today are that the Delta variant infection rate is increasing significantly and the group most at harm is the unvaccinated population. The science is clear that no vaccination is 100%, so there will also be incidents where vaccinated people will be infected.

I recognize that in the recent past, vaccinations were a point of contention. However, my review of the current science is that vaccinations represent one of the only protections against possible severe health consequences if infection occurs.


With this information, it is my responsibility to encourage all who can to get vaccinated as soon as possible. We are partnering with The Wellness Center to provide vaccines at back-to-school events for students 12 and older, their family members and all CISD employees.

**COVID-19 VACCINE OPPORTUNITIES**

**MONDAY, AUG. 9 // 6-8 P.M.**  
Crowley High School, North Crowley High School,  
Crowley Ninth Grade and North Crowley Ninth Grade

**TUESDAY, AUG. 10 // 6-8 P.M.**  
Crowley High School and North Crowley High School

**TUESDAY, AUG. 10 // 5-8 P.M.**  
Crowley Middle School, H.F. Stevens Middle School,  
Summer Creek Middle School and Richard Allie Middle School



**CROWLEY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Crowley ISD also partners with **Texas Health Resources** to offer the Employee Health Clinic for all employees and their eligible dependents. [Click here for vaccination opportunities from Texas Health.](#)

I personally believe it is our responsibility to take action to ensure the common good, and I also recognize the importance of individual rights. However, in this situation, I believe that we each must take personal responsibility to ensure the safety of ourselves and those in our care.

## Face Masks

In addition to getting vaccinated, it has been proven that when masks are worn, the likelihood of transmission of the Delta variant is reduced dramatically. Based on this information, I am **strongly encouraging that everyone wear masks indoors and especially when social distancing cannot be maintained.**

It will be paramount that all employees, students, and visitors are encouraged to wear masks, especially in situations where social distancing is not possible. I recognize that enforcing this action has been both politicized and made much more difficult than before, but I still believe that it is our responsibility to ensure the safety of the students we serve and each other.

I believe today, like I did 40 years ago, when we know better, we must do better. Get vaccinated for your family and wear your mask for your team!

Crowley ISD -- that's me!

Mike McFarland, Ed.D.  
Superintendent, Crowley ISD