

WE ARE COMMUNITY



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**Cathy L. Lauer, Ph.D.**

*Superintendent*

830/582-1536 Ext 103

Fax 830/582-1920

cathy.lauer@

nixonsmiley.net

**Jeff Van Auken**

*Dir. of Business & Operations*

830/582-1536 Ext 104

Fax 830/582-1920

jeff.vanauken@

nixonsmiley.net

**Jane Dwyer**

*Director of Special Programs*

830/582-1536 Ext 107

Fax 830/582-1920

jane.dwyer@

nixonsmiley.net

**Jim Weaver**

*High School Principal*

830/582-1536 Ext 202

Fax 830/582-2168

jim.weaver@

nixonsmiley.net

**Anita Van Auken**

*Middle School Principal*

830/582-1536 Ext 301

Fax 830/582-2258

anita.vanauken@

nixonsmiley.net

**Lundy Atkins**

*Elementary Principal*

830/582-1536 Ext 402

Fax 830/582-1920

lundy.atkins@

nixonsmiley.net

**NIXON-SMILEY  
CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
800 Rancho Road  
Nixon, Texas 78140-0400**

July 21, 2020

Dear Families and Students,

First, thank you to the more than 500 people who responded to our survey last week regarding the return to school for the 2020-21 school year. That was by far more participation than we have ever had in a survey seeking the community's opinion. Moreover, many of you wrote very profound, thoughtful comments. Again, thank you.

As of yesterday, nearly **63%** of those who responded wanted the District to adopt a new calendar that provided for the return of students either September 1<sup>st</sup> or later. Approximately **34%** requested that we keep the existing calendar and another **3%** suggested something else entirely.

After reviewing all of the responses and comments as well as TEA Guidance Documents, the Nixon-Smiley CISD Board of Trustees voted to adopt a new calendar for 2020-21 school year. The decision was not made lightly. On the calendar, **students will now be expected to return on September 1<sup>st</sup> and will be given a choice of in-person or remote (at-home) learning.**

We realize that not everyone agrees with this solution. However, it has been made with what we believe to be the best interest of the students, staff, and community in mind. We know there are many conflicting views, news stories, and opinions – but in the end, it did not make sense to start school when 63% of our families did not feel it is appropriate.

Additional information about Nixon-Smiley CISD's re-entry plan will be available in the coming weeks. This information will include what families can expect if they elect for their child(ren) to return in-person as well as the requirements for the remote (at-home) learning program.

Meanwhile, we hope you and your family are staying healthy. And like many of you, we can hardly wait until school starts.

Thank you for your continued support of Nixon-Smiley CISD!

Sincerely,

Cathy L. Lauer, Ph.D.

Superintendent