



**SANDRA "SAM" HIMMEL – SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**  
**FLORIDA'S SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR 2020**

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*"Where Learning is the Expectation  
and Caring is a Commitment"*

**THOMAS KENNEDY**  
DISTRICT 1

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DISTRICT 2

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DISTRICT 3

**SANDRA COUNTS**  
DISTRICT 4

**LINDA B. POWERS**  
DISTRICT 5

**For Immediate Release**  
**July 22, 2020**

Contact: Lindsay Blair  
Public Information & Communications Officer  
352-726-1931 ext. 2211

## **Citrus County School Board Approves New School Start Date and Mask Policy**

This afternoon, during an emergency meeting of the Citrus County School Board, Superintendent Sam Himmel presented her recommendations regarding the reopening of schools for the 2020-21 school year.

Her first recommendation was to delay the start of the 2020-2021 school year for students until Thursday, August 20, 2020. This recommendation was discussed and approved unanimously. This new start date also includes students who are enrolled in our Citrus Virtual School. Mrs. Himmel's recommendation was to provide ample time for teachers and staff to prepare for the upcoming school year, as we have had more than 2,600 students enroll in our Citrus Virtual School.

Mrs. Himmel then recommended to the board to require face coverings for all students and staff on school buses, and while on school campuses when social distancing is not feasible. After some discussion, the board unanimously approved this recommendation and policy.

"As it is well noted, the fluidity of this situation is unprecedented," says Superintendent Himmel. "Therefore, the relationships and collaborations we have established with our local health authorities are invaluable as my staff and I prepare for the reopening of schools. As plans develop, we

remain mindful these circumstances are likely to change, however, we will remain flexible and compassionate to the needs of our students and staff.”

With these changes, parents can revisit our enrollment options. We will be flexible with families wishing to change their enrollment options now that new recommendations have been approved. If you wish for your child to return to brick and mortar, contact your child’s school. If your decision is to enroll in our Citrus Virtual School, visit <https://tinyurl.com/y3nkn2sd> to complete the process. This form is also located for parents in Skyward Family Access.

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### About Citrus County Schools:

Citrus County Schools serves approximately 15,000 students in pre-school through grade 12 across 22 campuses. We are where learning is the expectation and caring is the commitment. We provide exceptional academic, emotional and civic growth to every student, every day. Our passionate educators empower students to take charge of their academic and personal success. The school district spans the cities of Inverness and Crystal River and incorporates communities such as Beverly Hills, Citrus Springs, Floral City, Hernando, Holder, Homosassa, and Lecanto. Want to learn what makes us one of the best school districts in the Sunshine State? Connect with us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#), or visit [www.citruschools.org](http://www.citruschools.org).