



Collinsville Community Unit School District 10

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September 3, 2020

Kahok Families,

Over the past three weeks, the district has been monitoring our ability to hold in-person instruction in a Hybrid/Blended Learning setting, as outlined in the district's Return to Learning Plan. This process has included monitoring our employees' well-being, communicating with the Madison County Health Department and assessing our students' needs, both academic and nutritional.

On August 17, the district determined the need to initiate our Remote Learning Plan. We appreciate the continued partnership between home and school, and realize the stress this has placed on families and district educators. I ask everyone to please continue communicating with their child's teacher or building principal if a concern arises. This is vital as this entire process is new for families and educators.

Since the start of the school year, teachers have conducted K-6 Meet the Teacher meetings with students and families, screened K and 1st grade students in-person; and initiated attendance, new content and grades, as outlined in the district's Return to Learning Plan. Additionally, the district began bringing back small groups of students in Pre-K, CAVC and other programs to meet individual student needs and/or content requirements.

The district has been in contact with the Madison County Health Department and multiple factors have been considered regarding our learning setting and how we provide services to our students. First, the district's Return to Learning Plan and Building Logistics include recommended public health practices: use of masks, increased cleaning and social distancing. Second, our employees' health has improved over the past three weeks. Third, childhood cases in Madison County have been minimal and there have been no outbreaks in area districts that have been attributed to in-person learning by school-aged children. Last, face-to-face instruction may be more challenging during the upcoming cold/flu season; we want to capitalize on the positive impact face-to-face instruction provides academically and socially while given the opportunity.

After much consideration, we have determined the district will activate the Hybrid/Blended Learning setting on Tuesday, September 8. A through L students will attend on Tuesday and Thursday; and M through Z students will attend on Wednesday and Friday. Mondays will be Remote Learning for ALL students. Additional information will be released by each building principal very shortly.

I understand this decision will be met with joy and frustration. Trying to balance students' educational needs while living in a pandemic is a constant struggle and one that appears to have no end in sight. Regardless, our goal is to keep students and employees safe AND provide the best education we can to our students by following Building Logistic Plans that include - small class sizes, cleaning protocols, the use of PPE and social distancing as outlined in our Return to Learning Plan.

Positive COVID-19 tests and community exposure outside of school will ultimately impact the district's ability to remain in an in-person learning model. I ask that families continue to be prepared in case the district determines it is necessary to change our learning setting.

Please be safe, wear a mask, wash your hands and practice social distancing. Have a safe holiday weekend and don't forget to wear your purple and show your Kahok Pride!

Mark B. Skertich Ed.D.
Superintendent