

November 6, 2020 Message from CUSD 10 Superintendent Dr. Mark B. Skertich

Hello Kahok Nation, I'm Superintendent Brad Skertich.

Last night at a special meeting, the Board of Education voted to approve a revision to the district's Return to Learning Plan. The revision includes increasing the number of days kindergarten through 6th grade students attend in person each week.

District safety measures, student achievement, family surveys and staff surveys all played an important role in the Board of Education's decision to revise the number of days K-6 students attend school each week.

Beginning Tuesday, November 17,th kindergarten through 4th grade students will attend school 4 days a week on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. 5th and 6th grade students are scheduled to begin attending 4 days a week starting Tuesday, December 1st.

1,200 students or approximately 20% of our student population remain in a Remote Learning Setting. Monday's will continue to be Remote Learning Days with a balance of instruction and time for our staff to plan, meet, and prepare as they continue to provide instruction to both face-to-face and Remote Learners for the remainder of the second semester.

As the district's Return to Learning Plan evolves, student and staff health data will continue to be closely monitored, and safety protocols, that include: masks, increased cleaning measures and social distancing to the greatest extent possible; will continue.

If a student or staff member is determined to be a "close contact" of a positive COVID-19 case, the family or employee will be notified directly by a district employee. In addition, a follow-up letter may be sent to all families as an additional measure of transparency regarding a positive COVID-19 case that is identified in a school. This has been occurring all year and there is no change in the district's communication plans, I just want to reiterate our notification policy.

Throughout the school year, we have been forthcoming that the learning plan status of a specific class, building or the entire district may change due to an outbreak or the health of our students and staff. If that is the case, we will do our best to provide ample notice to families. However, things can change rapidly and unexpectedly, so please continue to have alternate plans in place for your children.

Basketball and Collinsville go hand in hand, you cannot have one without the other in conversations because of our rich history. The battle between the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Illinois High School Athletic Association regarding the upcoming basketball season has placed school districts between a rock and hard place. Provide the opportunity our student athletes deserve on one hand. On the other hand defy State guidance knowing the district will not have liability coverage through our insurance carrier. As a result, the district is joining

others from around the State in an effort to find common ground with IDPH and allow our student athletes to compete safely.

As we begin the final two months of the calendar year, there is no doubt a long list of items that will make 2020 one of the most challenging of our lives. Education, employment, our day to day lives and our loved ones have been impacted. The list is endless, but rather than focusing on what has gone wrong, I want to share what I am grateful for the past few months. I urge everyone to do the same in the days and weeks ahead.

First our students. The excitement in your eyes can light up a room. Your resilience and ability to adapt are remarkable.

Second, our communities and families. The support our students get from their families and our communities is incredible. Your dedication to our students and staff continues to amaze me.

Last and certainly not least, our district employees. The unexpected has always been part of your day to day lives. However, no preparation could have ever prepared each of you for what we are experiencing. Your continued efforts to adapt and evolve are inspiring.

Please be safe, wear a mask, wash your hands, and social distance. Don't forget to wear your purple and show your Kahok Pride.