

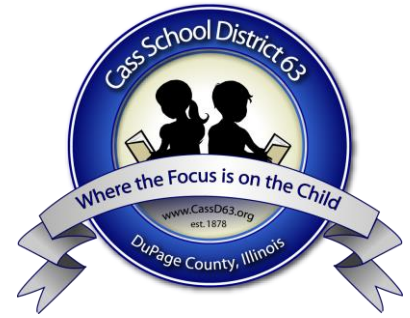
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 63

8502 Bailey Road • Darien, Illinois 60561-5333
331-481-4000 • Fax 331-481-4001 • mcross@casd63.org

Mark R. Cross

Superintendent of Schools



Wednesday, October 7, 2020

Dear Cass School District 63 Parents,

Following are several reminders, updates and important information for you as parents. As you already know, we look forward to welcoming our in-person 2nd through 6th grade students at Concord Elementary and Cass Junior High during the holiday shortened week of October 13th (please see the schedule details and reminders below), followed by our in-person 7th and 8th grade students at Cass Junior High on October 19th. The extra time for the necessary planning for our junior high students in particular has been essential and will help ensure the safe and successful return to in-person learning across our school district.

As a reminder, there is no school on the Monday, October 12th Columbus Holiday. ***Please make note of the unique schedule for next week, as the normal Monday/Wednesday cohort of students moves to Wednesday/Friday on the week of a Monday holiday.*** In case it is helpful, here is the current [2020-21 School District Calendar](#), which includes the cohort schedules. Following is the schedule for the return dates for the remaining grades as described above.

Grade Levels	Date of Return
Grades 2 – 6 (Tue/Thu Cohort)	Tuesday, October 13 th
Grades 2 – 6 (Mon/Wed Cohort)	Wednesday, October 14 th
Grades 7 – 8 (Mon/Wed Cohort)	Monday, October 19 th
Grades 7 – 8 (Tue/Thu Cohort)	Tuesday, October 20 th

School Improvement Day Friday, October 9th

As a reminder, we also have a School Improvement Day scheduled for this Friday, October 9th. These are held on several Fridays throughout the year for staff development and planning activities. ***As a result, this Friday is an independent learning day without live instruction.*** Independent learning activities will be assigned in advance for our School Improvement Days.

Patience Please! Bus Route Details Coming Soon

We appreciate your patience as we have made changes with our bus routes over this past week and we want to make certain we have these right considering the number of routes are doubled and changed from before. Also please keep in mind that these are normally announced the day before school starts during a normal year, but we also respect that you need to plan ahead.

Concord Elementary School

Cass School District 63
1019 Concord Place • Darien, Illinois 60561-5124
331-481-4010 • Fax 331-481-4011 • landerson@casd63.org

Laura Anderson, Ed.D.

School Principal & District Director of Teaching & Learning

Cass Junior High School

Cass School District 63
8502 Bailey Road • Darien, Illinois 60561-5333
331-481-4020 • Fax 331-481-4021 • cmarcinkewicz@casd63.org

Mrs. Christine Marcinkewicz

School Principal & District Director of Technology

Route pick up and drop off details will be provided by Friday, October 9th. Principal Christine Marcinkewicz will be emailing the time and location of each stop along with a seating chart directly to each Cass Junior High School student riding the bus. This information will be sent to your junior high student's Cass 63 email address. Principal Dr. Laura Anderson and her office staff will be contacting parents of each Concord Elementary student with their child's bus route information.

Daily Parent Certification Procedures for Bus Riders

Parents of children riding the bus to school will complete the [COVID-19 Symptom Paper Certification Form](#) provided under this link, which can be printed for the first day of attendance. Assuming your child is free of symptoms, the form should be completed and turned in upon boarding the bus each morning. For students scheduled to ride the bus to school, copies of this form will be sent home for parents to complete each morning after they check and certify their child.

Daily Parent Certification Procedures for Non-Bus Riders

For children walking or riding to school with parents, parent certification should be completed through the Electronic COVID-19 Symptom Parent Certification Form, which will be provided in an email link to parents the morning of each of in-school attendance day for their children. An email link will not be sent to parents of students who are either fully remote, or remote on the day the message is sent.

Social Distancing on School Buses

We are providing transportation as a service to our parents and while we do our best to space students out on our buses, we cannot guarantee that students will be six feet apart or more on all of the buses. We know some parents may opt out of having their child ride the bus, which is why I want to be transparent and share this information with you.

This is why the proper wearing of masks is required and I have also directed our bus drivers to maintain open windows whenever possible to maximize airflow and circulation. We also have cleaning and sanitizing procedures between bus routes. We will continue to monitor the social distancing and our changes with routes, and any parent questions or concerns are very welcome.

In-Person and Remote Lunch Orders for the Week of October 13th

As a reminder, all lunch orders for both in-person and remote learning students must be placed at one time through a weekly lunch order that is sent out on Thursdays for the following week by District Administrative Assistant Gayle Wilson. There will be one message that is provided to all parents, with separate links for in-person and remote learning lunch orders. Please watch for this and follow the instructions carefully. As a reminder, our prekindergarten and kindergarten parents who want lunch delivered home should choose the remote learning lunch order link. If you have any questions about this after the message is sent out, please contact Mrs. Wilson at gwilson@casd63.org.

Important Health and Safety Reminders

The proper wearing of face masks covering the nose and mouth is required of all students, staff, parents and guests while at school, on school grounds, at bus stops and on buses. While the school district will maintain an inventory of disposable masks, we are asking parents to provide multiple personal masks for their child in sealed plastic bags for the masks not being worn at the time. This has worked perfectly so far at Concord Elementary School. Additionally, we will follow social distancing protocols at school as much as possible throughout the day.

As part of our health and safety protocols, Cass School District 63 complies with the [Illinois Department of Public Health Exclusion Guidance](#). We will communicate more on this matter through our updated Return to Learn Framework, but as a reminder parents of children with close contacts, symptoms or positive tests will be contacted regarding the length of exclusions for any symptomatic students and siblings.

Do the Right Thing...Social Interactions Outside of School and Self-Reporting

I have said this before and I will say it again because it is a critical health and safety matter. *On behalf of every child, school district employee, parent, grandparent and family member, please do your part to ensure that nothing from your circles are brought into our schools. It isn't hard to prevent this if you do the right thing, so please monitor yourselves, your children and your family and close friends.* In no way am I trying to police what goes on in the private lives of our families, but I do feel strongly that if you think there is any concern or compromise, that you keep your child home and just let us know. You always have the temporary remote option if you need it or if there is any doubt.

I have faith in this because so many parents are already doing it! A self-reported case before any symptoms were ever shown. A child kept home because a parent was not comfortable with a situation, even though it was not technically an exposure at all. Another parent decided to keep their child out to start next week for something similar. *Awesome! We are proud of you.* If we all practice the same level of vigilance, we have the greatest chance of not only keeping everyone in our community safe and healthy, but also of making in-person learning both sustainable and successful.

The RtL Framework, Bus Routes and COVID Case Follow Up

These things will also be in your hands by the end of this week. We will not stop working at making this safe and successful, we will continue to communicate with you and our administrators, teachers and staff will continue to do the awesome job they are doing for your kids.

Reach out if you need anything at all, and thank you for your support of our children and our schools.

Sincerely,

Mark R. Cross

Mark R. Cross
Superintendent