

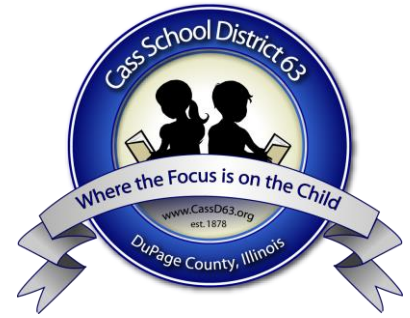
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 63

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Mark R. Cross

Superintendent of Schools



Wednesday, September 23, 2020

Dear Cass School District 63 Parents,

In follow up to our communication from last week, I wanted to update you on our continued planning and timelines for bringing our students back to school in person. Giving you the option to have your children at school under the care and direction of their teachers has always been our priority, second only to making certain that the health and safety of our children and staff always comes first.

With some of the recent updates to the health guidance we follow as well as the work and detailed planning taking place here at both schools and within the school district, we are on track for having our 5th and 6th grade students return to in-person blended instruction under the original Return to Learn Framework on October 13th and 14th. This will align with the 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade schedule to return after we come back from Columbus Day. We are then planning on having our 7th and 8th grade students back to blended instruction on October 19th and 20th. Our plans are unchanged for PreK, Kindergarten and 1st grades as they return beginning on September 30th.

For students in 1st through 8th grades, the following table shows the exact return date for the cohort of students (Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday) in which they are scheduled.

Grade Levels	Date of Return
PreK and Kindergarten	Wednesday, September 30 th
Grade 1 (Mon/Wed Cohort)	Wednesday, September 30 th
Grade 1 (Tue/Thu Cohort)	Thursday, October 1 st
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

One very important issue we are working on is keeping our Cass Junior High School students in the same cohorts as much as possible, which has always been one of our challenges at the upper grade levels. As a result, in some cases we may be asking parents to switch days for in-person attendance. There is nothing you need to do at this time and the school will reach out to you if this is determined to be necessary. We just thought it was important to mention this possibility in advance.

Concord Elementary School

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Laura Anderson, Ed.D.

School Principal & District Director of Teaching & Learning

Cass Junior High School

Cass School District 63
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Mrs. Christine Marcinkewicz

School Principal & District Director of Technology

Also, parents may opt in to full remote instruction at any time. *However, once this option is chosen please keep in mind that is a commitment until the end of the first trimester through November 20th.* If your plans have changed from what you selected on the school district survey this summer, please just contact your child's school office. Of course, parents who already chose full remote instruction do not need to take any action unless your plans have changed. Well in advance of the start of the second trimester, we will notify our parents to see if changes are desired for the next trimester.

Very soon, we will communicate many more details of our updated Return to Learn Framework, including but not limited to timelines, schedules, required health and safety procedures and protocols, transportation and school lunches. I will be asking parents and families to do your part to help make this successful. While nothing is going to be perfect trying to educate children in the middle of a pandemic, keeping in-person instruction rolling will depend as much on what you and your families do outside of school as what we do inside of school.

Our teachers, administrators and staff are working so hard and I am very proud of our wonderful people in this great school district. We are also very grateful to have such supportive parents and families, and we especially appreciate your patience and understanding in your role facilitating remote learning at home.

You have our full commitment that we will be ready and will do our part to make this next phase of returning to learn the best that it can be for your children. We will continue to communicate with you, but I wanted to share these important and timely updates so that you can plan ahead. As always, thank you for your support of our students, staff, teachers and schools.

Sincerely,

Mark R. Cross

Mark R. Cross
Superintendent

MRC/glw