

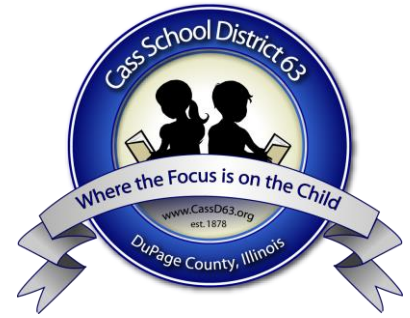
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 63

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Mark R. Cross

Superintendent of Schools



Thursday, August 20, 2020

Dear Cass School District 63 Parents,

I am writing to share a couple of quick updates on our Return to Learn Framework. Over this coming weekend, we will share everything in detail that you should need to know for opening the 2020-21 school year with remote instruction. It is my hope that the next communication answers your questions, but I wanted to share a few items with you now in case this is helpful with your planning.

2020-21 School District Calendar

The updated proposed school district calendar is available at [2020-21 School Year Calendar](#) and was also sent out with the August 20, 2020 NoteTotes. Remote instruction will begin on Monday, August 31 on the daily schedule as explained below. All other school remote attendance days and holidays remain the same as they were before. Designated school improvement days, which are shown as several Fridays throughout the school year, will include independent learning activities for students from home so you can plan on there not being live instruction on those days in case that is helpful. We will communicate more on these days as they get closer.

Daily Student Schedule

Just like normal student attendance days and also as we had in our original blended instruction framework, on Monday through Thursday the student attendance and instructional day will run from 8:00 a.m. - 2:45 p.m. at Concord Elementary School and from 8:45 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at Cass Junior High School. Fridays will include three hours of direct instruction with the same start times at each building. The remainder of the Friday times will include independent learning activities. This will also be explained more in the next communication to parents.

School Lunch Program

Cass School District 63 will be offering school lunches for families who are interested. Lunches will be available for pick-up and/or possibly delivery 2-3 times each week. They will cost \$3.30 per lunch for students not approved for free or reduced lunch. Reduced lunches will cost .40 per lunch. If you have not already applied and you think your family may be eligible for free or

Concord Elementary School

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Laura Anderson, Ed.D.

School Principal & District Director of Teaching & Learning

Cass Junior High School

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Mrs. Christine Marcinkewicz

School Principal & District Director of Technology

reduced lunches, you may complete and turn in the [Application for Free and Reduced Lunches](#). On Friday, August 21, we will be sending an important survey asking parents about their children's participation in the school lunch program.

2020-21 School Fees

At this time, it is not our intention to modify registration fees. The cost for the platforms, technology, access points, Internet bandwidth and other investments in helping make remote and blended instruction successful presents many challenges and costs that we are working through. We truly appreciate your understanding with this, but I wanted to explain why we are leaving these particular fees unchanged. As always, there is a fee waiver process available for families who qualify.

Regarding transportation fees, if you have not yet paid you will not be asked to do so until such time that your children are back in school and you need transportation services. For those who have paid, we would prefer to wait to issue any reimbursements only because we remain very hopeful of having our children back in school. Later in the school year, we will proportionally reimburse bus fees for any time of the year the service is not utilized. Refunds have been issued for those who had indicated that they were already planning to be fully remote for the school year and requested reimbursement.

Additional Back to School Updates

Included in the August 20, 2020 NoteTotes are additional details and dates from our building principals, as well as the 2020-21 Student Handbooks for each school. We will continue to communicate with you and I will be sharing the updated Return to Learn Framework with parents this weekend. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to respond to questions and address your concerns the very best that we can.

There are no words to express how much we look forward to the day your children are back at school, hopefully sooner rather than later. Until that time, we will make every effort to make remote learning as successful as possible for your children, as well as for you as parents. We truly appreciate your support.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to us if you have any questions in the meantime. Again, I will share more over the weekend. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Mark R. Cross

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Superintendent of Schools

MRC/glw