

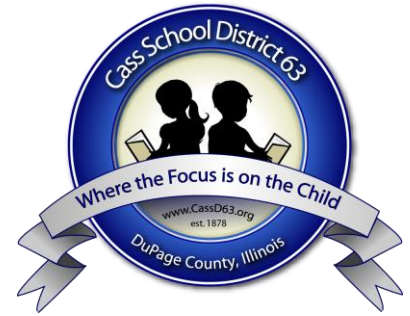
# ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

## CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 63

8502 Bailey Road • Darien, Illinois 60561-5333  
331-481-4000 • Fax 331-481-4001 • [mcross@casd63.org](mailto:mcross@casd63.org)

*Mark R. Cross*

Superintendent of Schools



Thursday, September 3, 2020

Dear Cass School District 63 Parents,

First of all, on behalf of the teachers, staff, administration and Board of Education of Cass School District 63, I want to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation for your work and effort at home with your children to help remote teaching and learning get off to a very successful start this week. We know it is far from perfect and there will always be things to work through until things get back to normal, but your patience, support and understanding has been so helpful to our teachers and staff, and no doubt your own children as well. The fact that we are basically running at 100 percent participation by our students is unheard of and I could not be more proud of everyone in our school community. Incredible!

We believe that the best part of our remote plan (and blended plan when we get there) is the full curriculum access. Despite the challenges and imperfections, we are offering everything that we can in terms of the curriculum and schedule. We are not doing only half of the curriculum or coursework. We are pushing to do all of it and keep our kids moving forward so that we can keep it rolling when they are back in school. Thank you for truly going above and beyond with us to make the ultimate parent-school collaboration as successful as we can.

### **Continued Return to Learn Planning**

The school district leadership team continues to meet to work through updated guidance and metrics from the DuPage County Health Department. The DCHD has been very collaborative in listening to and working with the DuPage County superintendents and the Regional Office of Education, while interpreting the school guidance from the Illinois Department of Public Health. Our teachers, staff, parents and community want our kids back in school as soon as we can safely and responsibly do so under this guidance.

This will not happen overnight and whatever we do will be carefully and thoughtfully planned out. What we will not do is put our students, staff, families and school district in an unsafe situation in which we cannot reasonably comply with current health guidance, nor will we make last minute changes. Whatever we do has to be sustainable and within the health guidance. We will continue to work toward making that happen as soon as possible, and I will continue to keep you informed.

### **Friday Student Attendance Schedule Reminder**

The [Cass School District 63 Remote Learning Plan](#) includes the reference to Friday student attendance schedules. As a reminder, these days are lighter in terms of the schedule to allow children a reasonable break from the rigors of remote instruction as well as to give teachers and staff the opportunity to plan for the following week. Our schedule for the Fridays of September 4 and September 11 will include three hours of live instruction and two hours of independent learning activities, totaling five hours of instruction.

### **Concord Elementary School**

Cass School District 63  
1019 Concord Place • Darien, Illinois 60561-5124  
331-481-4010 • Fax 331-481-4011 • [landerson@casd63.org](mailto: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](mailto:cmarcinkewicz@casd63.org)

*Mrs. Christine Marcinkewicz*

School Principal & District Director of Technology

The three hours of live instruction will take place within a four hour window at Concord (8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.) and within a three hour window at Cass (8:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.). Please contact your child's teacher or the school offices if you have any questions about the schedule.

**School Calendar and Weekly Schedule Reminder**

Also as another reminder, the current [2020-21 remote district calendar](#) treats each Monday through Thursday the same in terms of the schedule. Fridays are unique, but the schedule does not move on shortened weeks. We just wanted to make certain that there is no confusion since the original blended plan moved one day later on holiday-shortened weeks.

When students come back to school under the blended plan we will revert back to that schedule, but next week our students will have Monday off for Labor Day, the normal full schedule on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, and the shortened schedule on Friday, September 11 as described above. Please let us know if you have any questions about this at all.

**School Lunches**

Last but not least, please refer to the message that went out earlier today if you are interested in school lunches. The Illinois State Board of Education School Nutrition Program recently announced that through December 31, 2020, lunches can be provided to any students wishing to order them free of charge. If you are interested, please refer to the earlier message and respond accordingly or contact Gayle Wilson at 331-481-4000 or at [gwilson@cassd63.org](mailto:gwilson@cassd63.org) with any questions.

Again, thank you for your patience as we all work through these challenging times together. Please reach out to us if you have any questions or concerns and have a wonderful Labor Day weekend!

Sincerely,

*Mark R. Cross*

Mark R. Cross  
Superintendent of Schools

MRC/glw