

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 63

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Mark R. Cross

Superintendent of Schools



Thursday, December 17, 2020

Dear Cass School District 63 Parents,

This will be the final weekly communication of 2020 before we change our format in 2021. If any updates are necessary over the holidays, we will reach out and let you know. This message will be very brief with mostly just a few reminders. As always, please reach out with any questions or concerns.

No School January 4th, Remote Instruction Through January 15th

There is no school on Monday, January 4th due to a pre-planned teacher institute day. This means that all students will have a full day of remote instruction on Friday, January 8th. We will then follow the remote schedule for just one more week from January 11th through the 15th.

This is due to our very temporary planned pause from in-person instruction for the two-week period immediately following the holiday break. As announced previously, we will utilize full remote instruction for all students during this expected high-risk period of the pandemic, which we believe will help us sustain in-person learning in a healthy and responsible manner when students return the following week.

Return to Blended In-Person Instruction January 19th

We will then resume the blended in-person instruction schedule on Tuesday, January 19th, immediately after the Martin Luther King Holiday. Due to the holiday that week, our Monday/Wednesday cohort of students will instead have in-person instruction on Wednesday and Friday of that week. As a reference, the [2020-21 School District Calendar](#) reflects the schedule as described here.

Lunch Deliveries for the Week of January 4th

Lunch deliveries will be paused over winter break, but please keep an eye out for a communication that will be emailed out on Monday, December 28th asking anyone interested to place their lunch orders for the week of January 4th.

Snow Days, Remote Days

Once students return to school under the blended framework, we are obviously well into the time of year when we could see weather-related cancellations of school. In the event it is necessary to cancel in-person attendance, it is our intention to have all students remain at home for a full day of remote instruction. We would then continue with the remainder of the week on the originally planned schedule. More details will be shared after the holidays, but we wanted to communicate this in advance.

Concord Elementary School

Cass School District 63
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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

COVID-19 Data Dashboard Updates

Following is the updated information for the COVID-19 Data Dashboard, which is also available and updated regularly under the Return to Learn section of our website at www.cassd63.org. The next scheduled update to the COVID-19 Data Dashboard will be provided after the holiday break.

Cass School District 63 COVID-19 Data Dashboard	
Isolated or Quarantined (Week of 12-14-20)	36
Isolated or Quarantined (Week of 12-7-20)	39
Close Contacts at School (Week of 12-14-20)	0
Close Contacts at School (Week of 12-7-20)	2
Total 2020-21 Close Contacts at School	13
Known Positive Cases in the School Setting (Week of 12-14-20)	0
Known Positive Cases in the School Setting (Week of 12-7-20)	1
Total 2020-21 Known Positive Cases in the School Setting	7
Total 2020-21 Reported Cases Outside of the School Setting	18
Total 2020-21 Known and Reported Cases Among Students and Staff	25

Improvements with Weekly Communications

We will always seek ways to communicate better with you as parents, and after the holiday break we are planning some improvements to our weekly communications. The Note Totes will be replaced with a new name and a fresh look and will continue to be sent out each Thursday during the school year. My goal is to make sure that what we share is clear, concise, relevant and timely, as well as web and mobile friendly. Important announcements will be provided separately or in addition to the weekly communications. We are also working on the development of a mobile app that will also provide you with notifications.

Looking Forward to 2021!

In District 63, we are all looking forward to a much brighter future in 2021. Even as we continue to navigate the challenges of the pandemic, our leadership team is already preparing for the 2021-22 school year. And we are absolutely planning for a very normal school year, even though it is possible that there will still be health guidance that must be navigated. Just know that we are all fully invested in doing whatever it takes to provide your children with the best education while keeping them healthy and safe. Our focus will continue to be on providing your children with the academic, social and emotional growth that they need to be successful not only in school, but also in life.

Peace be with you and your families throughout the holiday season. Stay healthy and safe, and we can't wait to see you in 2021!

Sincerely,

Mark R. Cross

Mark R. Cross
Superintendent

MRC/glw