Wednesday, August 1, 2018

Dear Cass School District 63 Parents & Guardians:

I hope this letter finds you and your family taking full advantage of the summer season. In addition to the annual comprehensive summer work on curricular enhancements, buildings and grounds’ general cleaning and maintenance, this summer we are also installing a new early childhood playground funded through a grant, installing new climate controls for enhanced energy efficient heating and air conditioning in our schools, upgrading the exterior electronic signs at both schools and installing interior monitors to enhance communications and student recognition. In regards to transportation, we are purchasing a sports utility vehicle, an activity bus and replacing one of our large buses. This will make our fleet of student transportation vehicles less than a handful of years old and give us many more options to transport students to and from school and after school activities. Finally, we are upgrading our school parking lots with repairs, striping adjustments, speedbumps and improved signage to enhance the overall safety for students, staff and visitors in these areas.

Safety is always our district’s number one priority. While there are no immediate concerns, times have significantly changed and we must continually evolve in how we conduct school in order to continue to provide a safe learning environment. Most school safety experts conclusively agree that the more school doors are opened and the more visitors during school hours, the less secure and safe schools are overall.

Trying to find a balance, last year we moved to have student drop off items tagged and placed on a drop-off table in our secure school foyers rather than eliminating drop-offs during the day. This year, in working together with our parent group, CARE, we determined we can no longer allow an open-door policy for the room parties at Concord Elementary School. Instead of cancelling parties, we will reduce and limit the number of volunteers who organize and run classroom parties and these parties will no longer be open to visitors. If you are interested in being one of these volunteers, please look for more details in a future CARE communication. We appreciate your continued patience and understanding as we adjust our procedures to ensure the safest possible environment for students.

The new school year is almost upon us and we would strongly encourage all students to be registered by this Friday, August 3. It is vitally important that you make sure your child(ren) is/are registered for school and transportation on or before this date in order to give the School Offices ample time to complete class assignments, schedules and bus routes.

Finally, contained in today’s Summer NoteTotes is pertinent information your family needs for the start of the school year. School Families’ Orientation Day is scheduled for Tuesday, August 21. If for any reason your family is not able to attend, please contact your child(ren)’s School Office.

If you have any questions about the information shared or questions in general, please do not hesitate to contact us. I hope your family enjoys the remaining weeks of summer and we eagerly look forward to working with your family during the 2018/19 school year.

Sincerely,

Kerry J. Foderaro
Superintendent