

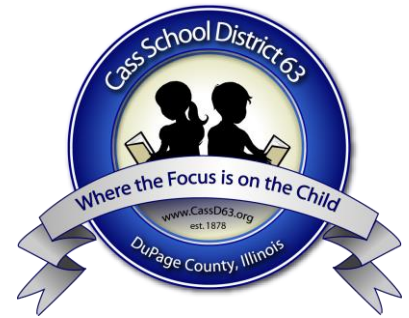
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 63

8502 Bailey Road • Darien, Illinois 60561-5333
331-481-4000 • Fax 331-481-4001 • mcross@cassd63.org

Mark R. Cross

Superintendent of Schools



Thursday, October 1, 2020

Dear Cass School District 63 Parents,

It was absolutely wonderful having our youngest students back at Concord Elementary School this week. Even through those masks, you could see smiles on the faces and excitement in the eyes of not only our prekindergarten, kindergarten and first grades kids, but our teachers and staff as well! It has been a long time coming and while there are always glitches to work out, you would never know it was the first full days for most kids.

Thank you for doing your part in making this work so well and helping us make such a smooth transition. I'm so impressed with the support of our parents and the high level of professionalism of our staff, and I truly believe that the result is a school district that is second to none. We look forward to bringing our 2nd through 6th grade students back to in-person blended instruction on October 13th and 14th, as well as our 7th and 8th grade students on October 19th and 20th.

Following are several important school district updates that I wanted to share with you; this time not all related to the pandemic and returning to learn!

Updated District Calendar and Holiday Reminder

The updated [2020-21 School District Calendar](#) is available under the link. While none of the holidays have changed, it has been updated to include the hybrid schedules. As an important reminder, on weeks with a Monday school holiday (including Columbus Day on October 12th), we replace that Monday with in-person instruction on the following Friday (in this case, October 16th). We will always provide reminders of the schedule change for our Monday/Wednesday students and parents.

CARE Meetings and Activities

In this week's [NoteTotes](#), you will see how active our awesome CARE group is right now! From the 5K Run/Walk to the Fall Drive Through BBQ Bash next Wednesday at Concord, to the [Book Fair](#) taking place right now, this group never stops supporting our kids, teachers and schools. If you have not been involved and are interested in doing so, the next CARE meeting is this Monday, October 5th, at 7:00 p.m. Go to www.d63care.org for more details.

Concord Elementary School

Cass School District 63
1019 Concord Place • Darien, Illinois 60561-5124
331-481-4010 • Fax 331-481-4011 • landerson@cassd63.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@cassd63.org

Mrs. Christine Marcinkewicz

School Principal & District Director of Technology

Board Vacancy Deadline October 9th

As we shared last week, the Cass School District 63 Board of Education is seeking qualified candidates for consideration to fill an unexpired term to replace member Brad Carrino. Interested candidates must complete and submit the [Candidate Application](#) by the deadline on October 9th.

Substitute Teacher Needs

Our school district is special in many ways, but we are not immune to the shortage of qualified substitute teachers. Should you have an interest, here is the link to our [substitute teacher vacancy posting](#). Also, here is an opportunity for [short-term substitute teacher training](#) through the DuPage Regional Office of Education. Please feel free to contact my office with any questions at all.

Want to Drive a School Bus?

Filling vacancies or substitute positions for bus drivers is another area in which there is a need. We are always looking for people with excellent driving records who are willing to fulfill the critical task of getting our children to and from school safely. Please contact Director of Transportation Keith Monaco at kmonaco@cassd63.org if you are interested in learning more.

Prorated and Return of 2020-21 Bus Fees

Since we started the school year with full remote learning, we have prorated our bus fees to \$180 per child for those returning to in person learning at this time. The prorated amount has been updated in [MySchoolBucks](#). Fees will also be prorated if bus needs arise later in the school year for any reason.

For parents who originally paid the full \$240 fee, the school district will reimburse the \$60 difference to parents in the coming weeks. For parents who paid the fee and plan to remain fully remote, we will reimburse the \$240. We are also refunding BASE program deposits but will still hold your reserved spot in the event the program returns later this school year. Any outstanding fees owed to the school district will be deducted from any fees that would otherwise be returned.

Bus Route and Return to Learn Communications

We have had some challenges with some of our bus route planning, but this is getting resolved. Once this is complete, we will communicate specific routes and times to you as parents. We want to make certain that there is no confusion and everything is clear to you. We are not a huge school district, but we have around 50 unique routes with our various schedules between the two schools! We will communicate those along with our Return to Learn updates next week.

Last But Not Least...Keeping Our Students, Staff and Families Healthy

As we make this transition to in-person learning, thank you for doing your part to make this successful. As I have shared previously, 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.

Thank you and as always, never hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Mark R. Cross

Mark R. Cross
Superintendent

MRC/glw