

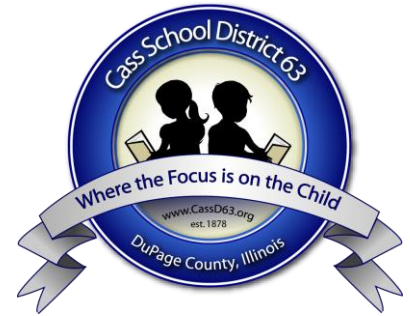
# ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

## 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, October 22, 2020

Dear Cass School District 63 Parents,

Our blended Return to Learn Framework is fully enacted and working extremely well. I have to give our teachers and staff a huge pat on the back for managing this so well for both our in-person and remote students. We are grateful to have our students back in school and continue to appreciate your ongoing support of your children as well as our teachers, staff and schools.

Following are several very important reminders and updates. As always, please never hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns at all.

### **Vigilance at Home with Area COVID-19 Numbers Rising**

While things are going well here within our school district, everyone can recognize that the numbers in the county and across the state and nation are rising. The related news this past week certainly got everyone's attention and rightfully so.

*This is a stark reminder that the virus is very real and that if we want to keep our students in school, then we have to do the right thing at home. Here within the school district, we are making every effort to never let our guard down for a minute. We are always wearing our masks and socially distancing as much as possible. We follow the procedures and rules every day and we make sure that the kids do so as well. To help us to continue to be successful and remain in school, we need our parents and families to socially distance, wear the masks and not put ourselves in social or family situations that will contribute to the spread.*

### **Local School District Decisions**

Some DuPage County school districts may switch back to full remote instruction as a result of the current numbers and the status of substantial community transmission and some will not. We will use the county wide data, along with the current data within our own local communities as well as how we are managing any situations here at school to make these decisions. We have not and will not make decisions based on what other school districts are doing, as each school and community is very unique. We will continue to monitor all of this daily while working closely with the DuPage County Health Department and following Illinois Department of Public Health guidance. We will also continue to make decisions based on the health and safety of our own students, staff and families.

#### **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

### **Important – DAILY Parent Certification Reminder**

We started off very well, but this is a reminder to please check your children for all 12 COVID symptoms each morning and complete the electronic symptom parent certification form, if possible by 7:15 a.m. Bus riders must have the completed paper symptom certification form upon boarding the bus each morning. *This takes only a couple of minutes at home and you know your child's health situation better than anyone. Our office staff is working very hard to keep up and your help can save us hours here at school.* Thank you!

### **Important – Symptoms Equal Remote Learning**

As an extra incentive to check your child and self-certify each morning, we do not want to surprise you with a call for you to pick up your child from school. Having said that, if your child exhibits any of the 12 COVID-19 symptoms at school, we have absolutely no choice but to contact you to pick up your child. We will continue to comply with the [Illinois Department of Public Health Exclusion Guidance](#). Your family doctor will agree with our approach and you should contact your child's physician immediately with any questions or if any symptoms are exhibited.

### **Cass School District 63 COVID-19 Dashboard**

The COVID-19 Dashboard will continue to be updated on a regular basis on the [Return to Learn Section](#) of our website. We have had no additional positive cases in our schools, but we obviously have students who are home with one or more symptoms or who are considered to be close contacts with cases outside of school.

Our numbers have naturally increased with having more students at school and parents reporting and certifying on a daily basis. We thank our parents for your honesty and diligence in reporting symptoms and close contacts to the school district so far this year.

<b>Cass School District 63 COVID-19 Dashboard</b>	
Total Known 2020-21 Positive Cases	1
Currently Known Positive Cases	0
Currently Isolated or Quarantined	32

### **School Improvement Day Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup>**

As a reminder, we have a School Improvement Day scheduled for next Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup>. *As a result, next Friday will be an independent learning day without live instruction.* Independent learning activities are assigned in advance for all School Improvement Days.

### **No School on Election Day**

Election Day is a mandated school holiday this year, so our schools will be closed on Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. However, there will still be a full week of in-person instruction that week as our Tuesday/Thursday cohort of students will instead have in-person instruction Thursday and Friday, November 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. In other words, in-person instruction will be held on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday that week. This is also shown on the [2020-21 Cass 63 District Calendar](#).

## **Second Trimester In-Person Election Deadline November 5<sup>th</sup>**

In next week's communications and NoteTotes, parents of students who are fully remote will be provided the opportunity to opt in to in-person blended instruction for the second trimester beginning November 30<sup>th</sup>. *The deadline for making this decision will be Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup>.*

*Parents who already have children at school for in-person blended instruction or at home for full remote learning and plan to continue in the same format will not need to respond.* As a reminder, parents may opt in to full remote instruction at any time, but fully remote families who wish to switch to in-person instruction must do so at the trimester.

*To make certain the school district is able to comply with health and safety requirements, full remote instruction is a commitment for a trimester at a time.* Also, due to social distancing requirements, we cannot promise preferences for which cohort days (Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday) or mornings or afternoon for prekindergarten and kindergarten. More information and details will be provided next week.

## **Last But Not Least...Long-Term Substitute Teacher Needed**

Cass School District 63 has an immediate need for well-qualified substitute teachers, including an excellent opportunity for a long-term substitute position in one elementary classroom from November through March. Please share this with any person who you think could be qualified and interested. *It is a wonderful opportunity in a great school district!*

As always, thank you for your support of our children, teachers, staff and schools!

Sincerely,

*Mark R. Cross*

Mark R. Cross  
Superintendent

MRC/glw