

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 63

8502 Bailey Road • Darien, Illinois 60561-5333
331-481-4000 • Fax 331-481-4001 • mcross@casd63.org

Mark R. Cross

Superintendent of Schools



Thursday, October 15, 2020

Dear Cass School District 63 Parents,

There are no words to express how excited we all are to have our students in school and with in-person learning off to such a successful start. Thank you for your support of our teachers, staff and schools, as our transition has gone extremely well. As your new superintendent, I can't even describe how wonderful it has been to see your children walking through the doors and back in school. Make no mistake about it, whether they are remote or in school, your kids are why we are all here.

As we continue to scale up our in-person learning with our 7th and 8th graders next week, following are a few important reminders for you as parents.

In-Person Learning Friday, October 16th

Don't forget that due to the holiday this past Monday, our normal Monday/Wednesday cohort of students is on the Wednesday/Friday schedule this week! In case it helps, here is the [2020-21 Cass School District Calendar](#) as a reminder of the calendar and schedule going forward.

School Reimagined Return to Learn Framework

As a reminder, here is the current [Return to Learn Framework](#). This contains just about everything you need to know as it relates to both health and safety of students and staff, exclusion guidance, blended and remote learning, schedules, lunches and transportation.

Updated IDPH Exclusion Guidance

As part of our health and safety protocols, Cass School District 63 complies with the [Illinois Department of Public Health Exclusion Guidance](#). This is in the Return to Learn Framework, but please be aware of the updated RT-PCR testing requirements from the Illinois Department of Public Health, should this be necessary in your household. You should speak to your family physician if this is necessary.

A Culture of Safety in School Requires Vigilance Outside of School

As I have shared before, the biggest factor in maintaining our success with in-person learning isn't what happens in school nearly as much as what takes place with family and social gatherings, travel destinations and other interactions by household members in the community. *I cannot promise perfection, but I will promise that we will be vigilant at school. Please do the same at home.* When there is doubt, remember that the remote option is always available while your child is at home.

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

Cass School District 63
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Mrs. Christine Marcinkewicz

School Principal & District Director of Technology

On multiple occasions, we have already had parents self-report situations and dynamics in which they have chosen to keep their children home, even if they were not required to do so. *Please keep up the great work!* This is very important when we are seeing increases in cases in DuPage County, Illinois and many states. To keep kids in our own community in school, we need to make sure we are all doing the right thing not only here, but wherever we go.

Daily Parent Certification

Along these lines, our parents have done a tremendous job of this so far. *Please make certain to check your child carefully for all symptoms every morning before school.* Once you do so, please remember to certify (if possible by 7:15 a.m.) on the paper form for bus riders, and the electronic certification form for all other in-person students. Thank you so much for your cooperation with this matter.

Cass School District 63 COVID-19 Dashboard

Going forward, the school district will provide general statistical data on the number of individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 as well as the number isolated or quarantined. By definition, individuals in isolation are experiencing symptoms related to COVID-19 and are isolated from others who are not ill, while individuals in quarantine are asymptomatic but may have been exposed by being in close contact with an individual who has COVID-19.

This information will be communicated to the school community on a periodic basis and also posted on the website for transparency and awareness. The following data includes both students and employees and nothing has changed since the initial case that was reported two weeks ago.

Cass School District 63 COVID-19 Dashboard	
Total Known 2020-21 Positive Cases	1
Currently Known Positive Cases	1
Currently Isolated or Quarantined	6

Low Risk Exposure Notifications

The school district will provide a low risk exposure notification to parents of students within a particular building. This notification will be in addition to the children or staff who are considered close contacts in which additional notification, precautions and quarantining are required. The low risk exposure notification will provide parents in that building with information regarding a situation, while also maintaining the confidentiality of students and staff.

We do understand that not everyone will agree with the notification method, but this is in compliance with current health guidance. We will make immediate contact with the parents of any children who are close contacts to a known or suspected case. We truly appreciate your understanding and cooperation with this and we will continue to communicate with you.

All Weekly Lunch Orders Due on Fridays at 9:30 a.m.

As a reminder, ALL lunch orders for the following week must be submitted by each Friday morning at 9:30 a.m. This is done through a weekly order form that is sent to parents with separate links for in-person and remote learning lunch orders. Please watch for this and follow the instructions carefully. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Gayle Wilson at gwilson@casd63.org.

Peanut Free Reminder

As a reminder, please avoid sending your children to school with lunches or food that may contain peanut products. *This will go far in keeping our children susceptible to life-threatening allergies safe.*

Bus Route Updates

The school offices will communicate with you as parents in the event any bus route updates are necessary. *Please do not ask your driver to make changes or accommodate situations with the routes.* Their job is to follow the routes and get your child to and from school safely. If you have a specific concern, please contact your child's school office. We have greatly appreciated the cooperation as we have worked through the changes with over 50 unique routes.

Please contact your child's school or my office if there is anything that you need. We will continue to communicate with you moving forward. As always, thank you for your support of our children, teachers, staff and schools.

Sincerely,

Mark R. Cross

Mark R. Cross
Superintendent

MRC/glw