

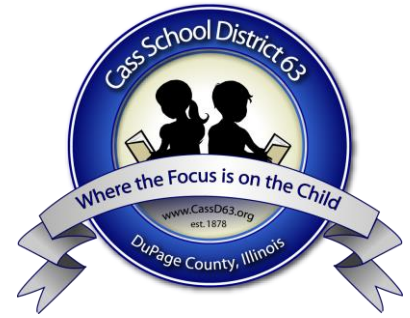
# ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

## CASS SCHOOL DISTRICT 63

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*Mark R. Cross*

Superintendent of Schools



Wednesday, September 16, 2020

Dear Cass School District 63 Parents,

We are very excited to share our plans with you for the first steps in bringing our kids back to school for in person learning for those parents interested in doing so. For those parents who wish to continue with remote only learning, you may continue to remain remote. As we plan, we want to be cognizant of how this will impact your household. Please be patient and know that more information and details will be provided in the coming days. It has been our plan to begin our transition with the youngest children. We are proud to be able to bring students back safely and responsibly, and we are taking the steps to make this happen soon.

**At this time, we are planning to bring our Concord Elementary School students back to school under the blended Return to Learn Framework. Our plan is to do so with children in Prekindergarten, Kindergarten and First Grade on Wednesday, September 30 or Thursday, October 1.** This will depend on which cohort of students your child is in (i.e. Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday). First Grade students will return under the original blended framework schedule. Prekindergarten will continue with their original hybrid approach that includes the morning and afternoon schedule. All Kindergarten students will attend four half days, as we felt that a shorter and more frequent schedule would work best to meet the needs of this age group. Dr. Anderson will be communicating with Kindergarten parents with more details that will include an important survey with a parent schedule choice.

**We are then planning on bringing back our students in Second, Third and Fourth Grades on Tuesday, October 13 or Wednesday, October 14.** Students in these grades will also return under the original blended framework schedule, again depending on which cohort your child is in (i.e. Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday).

More details and information on the updated school calendar and Return to Learn Framework will be shared in additional communications in the coming days.

We know many parents will be very excited to hear this, and I can promise you that no one is more excited to get your kids back than our teachers and staff! We look forward to the day when they can all be here again every day and at all grade levels. While some of the health guidance was modified

### 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

to a more reasonable standard that helped us pursue these changes with the younger children, the grade levels at Cass Junior High School are quite different due to the inability to keep our students in cohorts and follow the guidelines while still offering the full curriculum and levels for our high achieving students. This all continues to evolve and while we believe that we will get there, we are not yet committing to a timeline on getting the older students back to school. Please know that as soon as we can, we will.

Please keep in mind that it was less than two weeks ago, and the first few days of school, when we had an uncertain timeline, and now we are bringing two thirds of our kids back under the blended framework. Much work lies ahead, but we can't wait to get there! As I have shared from the beginning, we will continue to follow the current health guidance to ensure the health and safety of our students and staff, and we will continue to pursue offering our students a full curriculum, regardless of where kids are learning and on what days. Those are principles on which we will not compromise.

Thank you for your support of our teachers and staff in this awesome school district and we will continue to communicate with you in the coming days. Kindergarten parents, please watch for the special message and survey from Dr. Anderson later today. We will be in touch with more updates soon!

Sincerely,

*Mark R. Cross*

Mark R. Cross, Superintendent

MRC/glw