

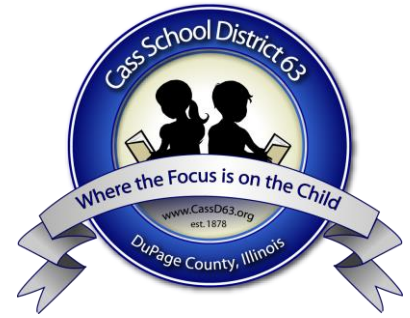
# ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

## 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, December 10, 2020

Dear Cass School District 63 Parents,

As long and hard as this past year has been, we are quickly rounding the corner to a new year! Every year has its challenges, but 2020 is one for the books on so many levels. As hard as it has been, I am so grateful to work every day with our amazing teachers and staff, our engaged students and parents, as well as our supportive community. Personally, I will always remember 2020 for many things, but one of the greatest blessings is getting to serve this wonderful school community as the superintendent. Cass School District 63 is a very special place indeed.

Following are several reminders and updates for you. As always, never hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns at all!

### **Reminder – Remote Instruction Through January 15<sup>th</sup>**

As a reminder and as announced previously, the week of December 14<sup>th</sup>, immediately prior to the winter break, will be full remote instruction for all students. Our teachers will follow the same daily schedule from Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup> as they normally would any other week. As a reminder, the Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup> School Improvement Day is an independent learning day without live instruction. Independent learning activities are assigned in advance for all School Improvement Days. Please email your child's teacher if you have any questions at all.

We are also planning for full remote instruction for the two weeks after the winter holiday break. With a teacher institute day already planned for Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, we will resume with the full remote daily schedule Tuesday through Friday of that week. We will then follow the remote schedule for just one more week from January 11<sup>th</sup> through the 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Return to Blended In-Person Instruction January 19<sup>th</sup>**

We will resume the blended in-person instruction schedule on Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, immediately after the Martin Luther King Holiday. The rationale for these changes have been explained previously, but it is important because we want to mitigate any health risks around and after the holidays so that we can sustain in-person learning in a healthy and responsible manner once we return on Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **2020-21 School District Calendar**

As a reference, the [2020-21 School District Calendar](#) reflects everything that is explained here.

#### **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

## COVID-19 Data Dashboard Updates

The Cass School District 63 COVID-19 Data Dashboard is also available and updated regularly under the Return to Learn section of our website at [www.cassd63.org](http://www.cassd63.org). This is updated on the web any time there is a new case among students or staff inside or outside of the school setting, as well as any new close contacts in the school setting. The number of students and staff isolated or quarantined is updated each Thursday for the two prior weeks. Thank you parents for the excellent self-reporting!

Cass School District 63 COVID-19 Data Dashboard	
Isolated or Quarantined (Week of 12-7-20)	39
Isolated or Quarantined (Week of 11-30-20)	31
Close Contacts at School (Week of 12-7-20)	2
Close Contacts at School (Week of 11-30-20)	0
Total 2020-21 Close Contacts at School	13
Known Positive Cases in the School Setting (Week of 12-7-20)	1
Known Positive Cases in the School Setting (Week of 11-30-20)	1
Total 2020-21 Known Positive Cases in the School Setting	7
Total 2020-21 Reported Cases Outside of the School Setting	18
Total 2020-21 Known and Reported Cases Among Students and Staff	25

## Changes Coming with Weekly Communications

One of my goals as superintendent is to always look for ways that we can communicate better with you as parents. In my view, effective communication can solve just about any problem, and I want to make sure that what we deliver to you is clear, concise, relevant and timely.

As part of this change, starting in 2021 we are going to retire the "NoteTotes". Our weekly communications will continue on Thursdays throughout the year, but we are going to roll out something with a new name and a fresh look. Our new email communications will also be supplemented with some fresh updates to our website and we will replace some of the PDF attachments (including my letters!) with links directly to updated web content.

Important announcements or bigger news items will be provided separately or in addition to the weekly communications. We are also working on the development of a mobile app that you can download and receive notifications there, if that is your preference. But just remember, it is up to you to read what we share! We just want to make that as easy as possible for all of you. Stay tuned!

Please let us know if you have any questions or need anything at all as we transition instructionally around the holiday season. Thank you!

Sincerely,

*Mark R. Cross*

Mark R. Cross  
Superintendent

MRC/glw