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Central DeWitt CSD Parents & Community,

We'd like to update you on some of the decisions that have been made for our Return to Learn plans. All three plans are still a work in progress, but please know the safety of our students and staff has been our number one priority throughout this process.

We are now sharing our plans with the public, but a final decision as to what plan we will use on August 24<sup>th</sup> will not come until we are closer to that date. Just like our staff is preparing for all three plans, we ask that our families prepare for all three plans as well. We are very much in a fluid situation where there is potential for floating back and forth between all three plans with short notice throughout the 2020-2021 school year.

Our three plans include the following (please the last page of this document for further explanation):

- In-Person Learning: All students are in our buildings doing a regular school schedule.
- Hybrid Learning: Half of our students are with us at a time. Half of our students will be placed into a Monday-Tuesday group (Group A). The other half of our students will be placed into a Thursday-Friday group (Group B). Group A and B will rotate every other Wednesday. This plan was designed to meet the Iowa Department of Education's 50% in-person learning requirement. Our first priority in splitting up our student cohorts is to keep family members and households together. More information on students assigned to each cohort will be sent out to parents within the next two weeks.
- Virtual Learning: All student instruction will be online. This plan requires a recommendation from the Department of Public Health and a waiver from the Department of Education, based on our local virus data.

Another option for families, completely separate from our three plans, is a semesters-long commitment to an online learning program called Edgenuity. This is a program we stand behind and a good option for those unable to attend school. We would also like to share that while we are glad to be able to offer this option, it is not without concern for our district. We take great pride in the staff and programming we have in place in our school district and it takes funding to support what we have in place. For every student that utilizes Edgenuity, over half of the funding we receive for those students will go directly to Edgenuity rather than supporting the programming and staff we have in our local school district. We would never choose financial concerns over the safety of your child but we felt compelled to share this information in hopes you will continue supporting the Central DeWitt

Community School District the best way possible. For those that would like more information on Edgenuity, please view their video library at <https://www.edgenuity.com/video-library/>.

The Iowa Department of Education would like us to return with all of our students in the classrooms on Aug. 24. If this changes, it will be with guidance and recommendations from the Iowa Department of Education as well as the Iowa Department of Public Health. Whether we have all of our students with us at the same time, or if we follow the Hybrid plan, we want to make sure we're doing so as safely as possible. With this in mind, the following will be in place as we begin the school year:

- We will not be allowing visitors into our building. We will do as much as we can through the intercoms at our doorways. If students need to be picked up, they will go outside to meet their parents. We will not be having guest speakers or volunteers in the schools. We feel we need to do as much as we can to limit who has access to our buildings.
- We will not be going on field trips outside of our buildings for the same reason. We need to make sure we're controlling the environment our students and staff are in as much as possible.
- Students and staff will be required to wear masks while in our buildings. All students will be provided with a mask from the Mask Taskforce. Students will also be able to wear their own masks. We need to keep our classrooms and schools open as long as possible, and having everyone wear a mask appears to be the best way to do that. We will also allow exemptions for families who have special circumstances. We will handle this case by case. We hope that students who are unable to wear a mask would be able to wear face shields.
- School transportation will remain the same as in past years, but students will be required to wear masks while being transported.
- There will be increased cleaning and sanitizing throughout the buildings. Proper handwashing will also be extremely important for all of us.
- We have new health and safety guidelines that will be implemented for ill and exposed students and staff.
  - All students and staff are required to take their temperature at home daily and perform a self-screening before coming to the school buildings. A fever is defined as above or equal to 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit.
  - If a student or staff member is experiencing symptoms of an illness they will stay home. Symptoms may include but not limited to:
    - Fever over 100.4-per CDC, chills, body aches
    - Active vomiting
    - Active diarrhea
    - Cough and/or shortness of breath
    - New, undiagnosed rash
    - Sudden loss of smell and/or taste

We understand you would like us to choose one plan and commit to that decision, but the current circumstances make that impossible. I can tell you we're going to start on August 24 and once we get closer to that date and know what health conditions look like in our area we will be able to determine

whether we're going to be in-person, hybrid, or virtual. This is why we strongly encourage you to have a plan in place for all scenarios. I am in regular communication with the Iowa Department of Education and the Iowa Department of Public Health whose guidance we continue to receive and follow. As soon as we determine which plan is best for our district we will share that information immediately.

This may be a challenging year, but if we all work together, keeping our students in mind like we always do, we can provide the best possible chance for our students to thrive despite the circumstances. Thank you for your suggestions and your willingness to adapt and support the Central DeWitt Community School District!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Peterson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "P".

Dr. Dan Peterson, Superintendent



# CENTRAL DEWITT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT RETURN TO LEARN PLAN

## IN PERSON LEARNING

### TRADITIONAL SCHEDULE

Students required to attend school five days a week

### PRACTICES TO IMPROVE HYGIENE

- Every faculty/staff member will be provided with a mask and face shield
- More frequent hand-washing
- Hand sanitizing stations will be located throughout buildings
- Students are required to wear masks and/or face shields
- Water bottle filling stations are available and water fountains will be turned off. Students may bring own water bottle with them
- Parents are encouraged to check childrens' temperatures before attending school

### DAILY SCHEDULES SUPPORT REDUCTION OF LARGE GROUPS

- More lunches will be added to schedule for some schools and others will have multiple lunch locations to spread students out
- Dismissal for lunches will be staggered
- Limited bus transportation
- No field trips to reduce outside exposure

### EXTRA PRECAUTIONS AND SANITIZING WILL TAKE PLACE

- A thorough health and safety plan with all precautions will be shared before school year begins
- Sanitizing between lunches and classes will take place
- No outside visitors including presenters, parents, or other family members
- Everyone will be responsible for helping each other out with sanitizing and maintaining social distancing practices as much as possible

## HYBRID LEARNING

This plan will be used if there is a need to restrict the number of students in a building at any given time

Students will be assigned Group A or Group B. Group A will attend classes Monday and Tuesday as well as every other Wednesday, opposite of Group B. Group B will attend classes Thursday and Friday as well as every other Wednesday opposite of Group A. Please see model below.

Households will be scheduled together in Group A or Group B when possible

All students will be provided a learning device such as an iPad or laptop and will be allowed to take them home

Learning is required

## VIRTUAL LEARNING

This plan will be used if our community, school, class, or individual needs to be quarantined for any amount of time

All students will be provided a learning device such as an iPad or laptop and will be allowed to take them home

Alternative learning materials will also be provided for Pre-K

We will follow the Central DeWitt Continuous Learning Plan

Learning is required



## CENTRAL DEWITT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT HYBRID LEARNING MODEL

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
GROUP A	Attend school	Attend school	Attend school every other week opposite of Group B	Virtual Learning	Virtual Learning
GROUP B	Virtual Learning	Virtual Learning	Attend school every other week opposite of Group A	Attend school	Attend school