



# CENTRAL DEWITT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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[www.cd-csd.org](http://www.cd-csd.org)

August 6, 2020

Online Learning & Return to Learn Handbook

Central DeWitt Family,

I'd like to give you an update on our decisions regarding education for our students that need to, or are choosing to, have their instruction provided online. After much discussion and thought, we are choosing not to move forward with Edgenuity as the online instruction provider. We are instead going to offer families an online option provided by our own teachers. Some of the reasons behind this decision include:

**QUALITY** - We believe our Central DeWitt staff members are the most talented and qualified people to be working with our students. The curriculum, instruction, and experiences we provide our students are better than anything an online provider could give us.

**RELATIONSHIPS** - We believe we can provide the best social-emotional support for our students through our school staff. Our staff knows our students, and there is a relationship there that cannot be replicated by a purchased online curriculum. All of our students will be returning to our classrooms at some point, and our staff is eager to build and continue the relationships they have had with our students.

**Student Transitions** - We believe we can provide better transitions if we provide our own online instruction. Families who choose to begin the school year online will have a much more seamless transition when they decide to come back and they do not have to commit to a full semester online as they did with Edgenuity. Likewise, if we, as a school district, need to go fully online at some point, we will be much better prepared to do so.

**STUDENT HEALTH & SAFETY** - We believe this is the best decision for students if they need to be at home because of health and medical reasons for a shorter amount of time. Even while at home they can be working with their Central DeWitt teachers.

**FINANCES** - We believe there are better ways to invest the money we have than to purchase an online curriculum for our students. Looking at the number of families interested in keeping their students at home, and the cost of Edgenuity for each student, we believe it is better to invest that money into our staff, rather than sending it to an online provider and have nothing to show for it after the students complete their courses. Also by not using Edgenuity, it prevents us from having to make financial cuts to our existing programs.

As we move forward, we are working with our Instructional Coaches to create a framework for this family-chosen online option. Here are some of the details for this format:

- Limited Class Selection - There are certain courses that will not be offered online. These would primarily be courses that require hands-on student experiences, whether with manipulatives that are utilized with the school or courses that require special equipment (Career & Technical Education, STEM, etc.)
- Guided Reading and Guided Math will be limited in frequency
- Band and choir will not be available for online instruction
- Online instruction cannot be combined with in-person course offerings. Students that are doing online instruction, will be completely online.



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- This option is not considered homeschool. Any student using online learning would still receive a grade and credit for work completed.
- If at any time the district moves to 100% virtual learning, students using the online model would integrate into the 100% virtual instruction provided to all students
- Information and instruction will be shared between students and teachers with our online platforms:
  - Elementary School (K-3): Seesaw
  - Intermediate School (4-6): Google Classroom
  - Middle School & High School (7-12): Canvas
- This option is not available for preschool students

We will continue sharing more details of this plan as it is being created. There will be a survey going out to parents later this week asking parents again to indicate what they plan for their children given the information we've provided. It will be extremely important that all parents respond. We hope to have the information from the survey reviewed early next week. We will then be able to continue crafting our specific online plan.

Although this message is primarily about our online learning option, I wanted to send you our Return to Learn Handbook that has been developed with a lot of information regarding decisions that are being made.

[CDCSD Return to Learn Handbook](#)

As we proceed, please contact me with any questions you might have, and we will do our best to continue to push out the latest information we have.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Dan Peterson, Superintendent