

# Return to School Information

## WARROAD PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Warroad Public Schools' Families,

### Warroad Schools' students will return to school in January 2021.

Please read an excerpt of the December 21, 2020, message from School Nurse Deb Landin:

We all realize that Distance Learning has been a challenging time for students and families. We are so thankful for the parents and students that have picked up books, packets, supplies and returned completed work. It has been a "team" effort and we thank you for your assistance. The COVID-19 pandemic, along with distance learning, has created emotional challenges for so many. Please take care of yourself and your families. Reach out for help if it is needed. During the Holiday break, take time to enjoy your family, create some fun, relax, and celebrate as **SAFELY** as possible!

Since COVID began, I have been compiling and analyzing all the data that I can get access to; this has been especially true during the last month. We all know that we saw the COVID numbers rise dramatically in Roseau County. Cases continued post-Thanksgiving celebrations, but did not continue for as long as we anticipated. Roseau County reported NO new cases today! The same was true for the Warroad School numbers. We have had 32 staff members in the district test positive for COVID-19. However, as of today, we have only four staff members that are out due to COVID-related reasons. Our Distance Learning has been a success in regards to decreasing COVID transmission within the school community. Staffing was one of the many reasons distance learning was necessary.

Due to these statistics, I feel confident in returning to "in-person" learning earlier than January 18th. I am sure that all of you are aware that Governor Walz has encouraged all Elementary Schools in the State, to return to In-Person or Hybrid Learning by January 18th. The MN Department of Education has also updated the Safe Learning Plan (the latest updates were made today, December 21<sup>st</sup>) to include steps to return to In-Person Learning.

Both the MN Department of Health and the MN Department of Education encourage that schools implement a "rolling start" in which students will gradually be brought back to school. We will return to school using the Hybrid Model which we were in prior to distance learning. **Our return to school schedule will be as follows:**

- \*January 4, 2021: Early Learning Center
- \*January 7, 2021: Grades K-4
- \*January 11, 2021: Grade 5-8
- \*January 14, 2021: Grades 9-12

This is our plan, but it may need to be adjusted if the COVID numbers in our county rise significantly or if we see a rise in COVID numbers within our school community. If that happens, you will be notified as soon as possible from the District Office.

If you travel outside of MN over the holidays, it is strongly recommended that you follow the MDH travel guidelines and **quarantine for 14 days** after you return home. If you are travelling outside of MN, please contact me at 242-2583.

And finally, if your child has close contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19 or if anyone in your household tests positive for COVID-19, **please contact me at 242-2583**. This is especially important as we attempt to return all students to school. Yes, I will be taking calls over the holiday break! COVID doesn't disappear for holidays! Feel free to call if you have any questions or concerns.

All learners should access educational content for all subject areas via Schoology as provided by teachers consistent with the in-person course plan via Distance Learning protocols through their return to school date.

**Attendance:** All students will continue to be tracked for daily attendance. Attendance during Distance Learning should be marked by students or parents in the Infinite Campus Portal. Absences and/or failure to engage in education may result in communication related to educational requirements with the school and local agencies.

**School Schedule:** School hours continue to be 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday and 8 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday.

**Transportation:** Bus routes will begin morning pick up and after school drop off on Thursday, January 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Face Coverings:** Students are required to wear face coverings in all indoor spaces. Staff are encouraged to wear face masks and face shields. Clear barriers will be utilized by educators in small group/individual instructional settings.

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**Learner Expectations and Experiences:** K-12 students are responsible for learning activities and growth is tracked during distance and in-person learning. Students will continue to access courses and student support services in content area classrooms and specialist spaces.

**Technology:** Elementary and High School students are expected to utilize district issued Chromebooks to ensure optimal functionality of district applications and learning resources. ISD #690 is unable to guarantee access to programs or service on any personal devices. Students should return to school with their district issued Chromebook and charger in January.

**Meals:** Meals will continue to be delivered for students Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup> - Friday, January 8<sup>th</sup>. School buses will drop meals off at bus stops 4 hours later than the morning pickup time. Elementary students will eat meals in classrooms. Students in grades 9-12 who would like school meals from January 11<sup>th</sup> - January 13<sup>th</sup> will need to call the school by 9 a.m. each day. Meals will need to be picked up in the High School office. School meals are free for all students throughout the 2020-2021 school year.

**Open Lunch:** Lunch will remain open for all Seniors (12<sup>th</sup> grade) with a permission slip turned into the office. NEW for return to school: Juniors (11<sup>th</sup> grade) are eligible for Open Lunch for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year with parent/guardian signed permission slip. Slips will be mailed to parents of 11<sup>th</sup> grade students. Students will be expected to sign out and in with office staff each day they leave for open lunch.

**Student Services:** All students have access to the school counselor, support staff, and school nurse, as requested by students/families. Please call or email if additional assistance is requested.

**Health Office:** Please continue to report illnesses and quarantines related to COVID-19 to Licensed School Nurse Deb Landin at 218-386-6044 (Health Office) or 218-242-2583 (cell). School staff will be offered on-site COVID-19 testing every other week.

**Athletics and Activities:** Athletics and Community Education activities will follow return to programming protocols beginning January 4<sup>th</sup>. The pool will open for lap swimming on January 4<sup>th</sup>; regularly scheduled pool hours will resume January 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Kid Kare:** Families registered for Kid Kare may access ISD#690's school aged child care. Registered students are expected to bring their learning materials for school work times while at Kid Kare through January 6<sup>th</sup>. Registration for Kid Kare should be communicated with Coordinator Della Knutson by calling: 218-689-2841.

**Return to In-Person Learning:** Students will return to school in phases per guidance provided in Minnesota's Safe Learning Plan for the 2020-21 School Year.

January 4, 2021:	Early Learners
January 7, 2021:	Kindergarten - Grade 4
January 11, 2021:	Grades 5 - 8
January 14, 2021:	Grades 9 - 12

Safely returning to school requires the focus and dedication of the entire Warroad community in wearing face coverings properly, practicing hand hygiene, maintaining distance from others, and staying home when ill. Safe Return to School 2021 reminders to "Protect yourself and Protect others" from School Nurse Deb Landin can be viewed in this video: <https://youtu.be/XTTPdivOsGY>. The encouragement and reminders students receive from their family to support these health practices is greatly appreciated. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns. Our top priority continues to be promoting the health and safety of all ISD #690 students, families, staff, and the entire Warroad community.

Sincerely,

Dennis Abernathy  
Warroad High School Principal

Brita Comstock  
Warroad Elementary/ELC Principal