



South Central Community Unit
School District 401

Kerry Herdes, Superintendent
Kimmunity, IL 62854
618-547-3414

Schools:

South Central High School
South Central Middle School
South Central Elementary School

July 22, 2021

Dear South Central Parents, Guardians, Staff and Students,

The SC Board approved the district's Return to Learn Plan on 7/21/21. Please understand this plan is subject to change based on conditions/cases in the school district. We will also be working with both county health departments.

We were very happy to learn that the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) have adopted the Center for Disease Control's Guidance for K-12 Schools. We feel this guidance will provide our school district with the framework to continue to provide a safe and healthy learning environment that will result in another successful school year at South Central Schools.

There were some very important changes in the document in comparison to last year. The most significant change was the ability of local school boards, with the assistance and input from local health departments, to make decisions regarding the layered prevention strategies that best meet the needs of our school population, families, students and community.

Certain aspects of the layered prevention strategies could change based on the local conditions related to the spread of COVID-19. Any changes to the school board approved Return to Learn Plan will be communicated to our parents, students, staff and community in a timely manner. Included with this letter, and posted on our school website at www.southcentralschools.org, you will find the board approved Return to School Plan.

Some of the key highlights include:

- Resume a regular full school day.
- Remote learning is no longer an option. In-person learning is a priority.
- Masks are recommended (parent option) for indoor use by all individuals (age 2 and older) who are not fully vaccinated.
- **Masks are required on all school transportation** (buses, driver education, school vans) per the CDC Order.
- Practice social distancing in all settings of at least 3ft. or to the greatest extent possible.
- Students, teachers and staff should stay home when they have signs of any infectious illness and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care.
- Continuous monitoring of local conditions, with input from the local health departments, will guide decisions on the layered protection strategies.
- The plan could be amended, based on the current local conditions.
- Our school will cooperate with local health departments on contact tracing that could result in quarantine or isolation of students or staff.

We ask for your continued patience, flexibility and support as we all work together to provide our children with an outstanding education.

Sincerely,
Kerry Herdes, Superintendent