

1625 Deep Lake Road * Lake Villa, Illinois 60046 * Fax 847-395-7553 * www.chsd117.org

Return to School Plan

7-3-2020

Community High School District 117 Families,

I hope this communication finds our families well. I know everyone is anxious to learn the District's plan for the 2020 – 21 school year. We begin that conversation today, while the planning process is not complete, I want everyone to understand the elements that help drive our decision making. There is no substitute for in-person instruction delivered by our skillful and compassionate teachers. Moreover, in-person school plays an equally important role in our ability to support students' social-emotional needs, including their mental and physical health, and in limiting the impacts of trauma. However, the safety of everyone entering our buildings is equally important. The District is taking a conservative approach to reopening erring on the side of safety for our students, staff and community.

The District's goal for the fall is to safely welcome back as many students as possible to in-person school settings, to maximize learning and address our students' holistic needs. Social distancing rules however, require six feet of separation between students and between staff as much as possible. Therefore, approximately 430 students, which represents approximately one-third of the student body can be in the building at one time. We will divide the student body into three groups (A group, B group, and C group). One group will be in the building for in-person instruction while the other two groups will be learning remotely. We will rotate the groups weekly. Consistent with state guidance, the district will focus on high needs students as well as the social and emotional well-being of our students.

Please anticipate over the course of the next several weeks, updates every Friday on the latest developments regarding the return to school in August. We will also provide families an easy to interpret summary when all the planning is complete. We do however; feel it is important to provide updates throughout the process.

Many consider the COVID-19 pandemic to be more disruptive to education than any other phenomenon in the history of our state or country. Upon return to school in August, this ongoing public health crisis of five months has forced all of us to significantly change our personal and collective behaviors to help control the spread of this disease. To that end, I want to thank our families, students, staff and community for their patience, flexibility and sacrifice exercised during these challenging times. Predictably, continued adjustments will be necessary as we transition back to school in Phase 4 of the [Restore Illinois Plan](#) . Therefore, schooling will look and feel considerably different than pre-COVID-19 normal.

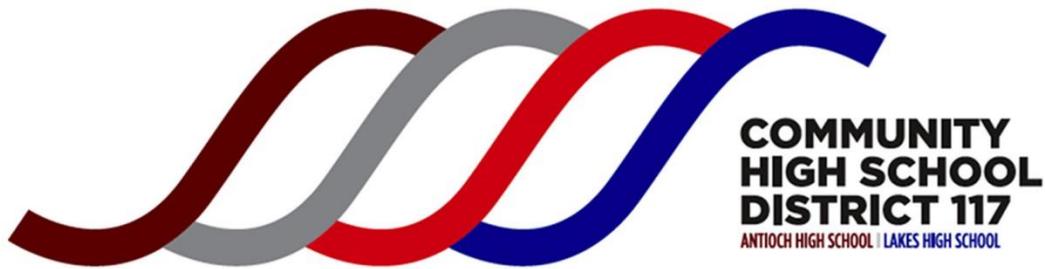
The District, together with a committee of teachers, students, parents and Board of Education have been working diligently this summer to develop a plan that reflects the District's professional beliefs, values and philosophies while adhering to the recommendations of the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Department of Public Health [Part 3 Guidance Document](#) .



Ignite Passion and Discovery in Every Student

Serving the communities of Antioch, Lake Villa, Lindenhurst and Old Mill Creek
Community High School District 117, being a community of learners with a vision of excellence, is committed to providing an educational experience that encourages all learners to develop to their fullest potential, to engage in lifelong learning, and to be responsible members of society





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This Part 1 communication will outline some elements of the District's Return to School Plan.

- **District Mission** –
 - *Ignite passion and discovery in all students*
- **School Safety** – The combination of all practices is more important than any one measure.
 - Adhere to all IDPH school safety requirements...
 - Require use of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including face coverings (face masks are required unless there is a documented accommodation);
 - Prohibit more than 50 individuals from gathering in one space;
 - Require social distancing be observed, as much as possible;
 - Require that schools conduct symptom screenings and temperature checks or require that individuals self-certify that they are free of symptoms before entering school buildings; and
 - Require an increase in school wide cleaning and disinfection.

The District is prepared for three teaching and learning possibilities upon reopening:

1. In-person learning with new safety requirements: The goal is to get as many students as possible back into schools for in-person learning—safely. In this model, all students return in person to school settings that are appropriately modified to accommodate the health and safety requirements.

2. Blended Remote learning: It is likely that school will begin with this approach due to the state issued school health and safety requirements. A blended model means that students would alternate between in-person and remote learning. For instance, students could switch between in-person and remote learning on alternating weeks.

3. Remote learning: This model is available for individual students who cannot yet return in-person, and for all students in the event of future classroom or school closures due to a spike in COVID-19 infections.

While our goal is to welcome all our students back at the same time, there may be times throughout the year where we are forced to change from a blended approach to a remote approach and vice versa due to health data and guidance from the Department of Public Health.

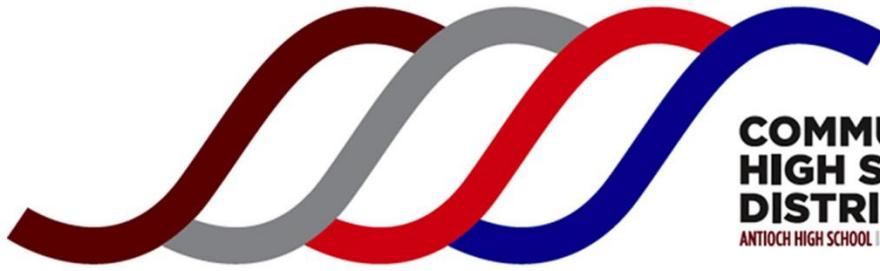
As we continue to plan for the 2020 – 21 school year, information from all stakeholders continues to be very important. Please anticipate receiving a survey from our commercial partner Panorama next week. Please take a few minutes to complete this anonymous survey, as your input is critical to our ongoing planning.



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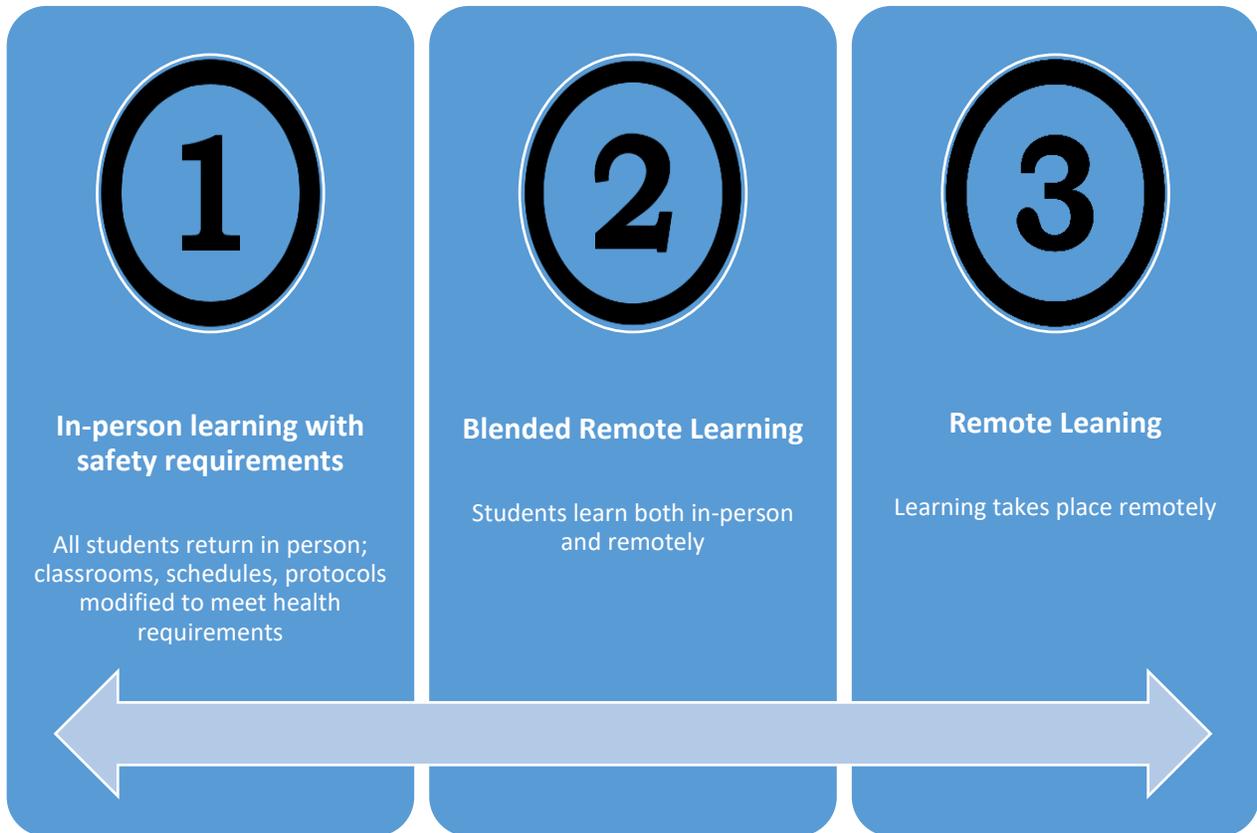




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Continuum of learning modes for the 2020 -21 school year



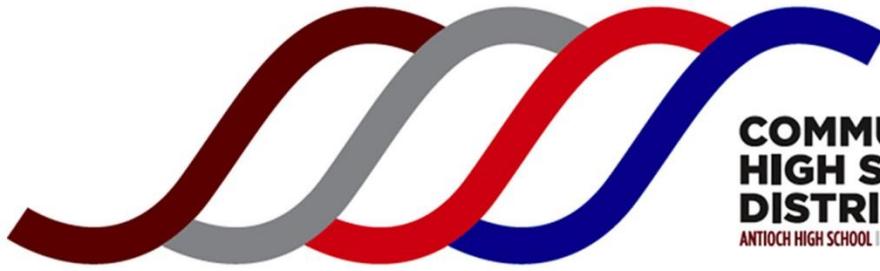
**** Based on data from the Lake County Department of Public Health, there may be times throughout the school year where it is necessary to change from one mode of learning to another.**



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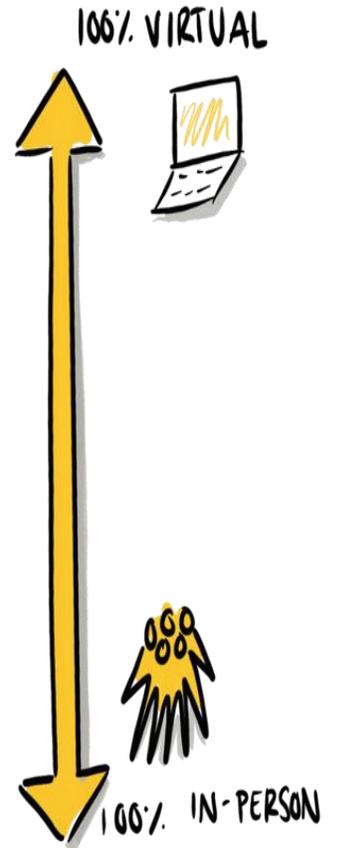


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Phase 4			
Blended Remote Learning Model			
Week	In-person instruction	Remote Learning	
1	A Group	B Group	C Group
2	B Group	C Group	A Group
3	C Group	A Group	B Group
4	A Group	B Group	C Group

- One week of social interaction and exposure for students, two weeks of remote learning
- Allows for the development of student-teacher and peer relationships;
- Reduces spreading of COVID-19 virus by reducing group exposure by 14 days;
 - Establishes schedule/routines for students, and
 - Clubs / Activities / Arts / Athletic programs after school will be available to those that participate after school



The next five Fridays, the following elements of the District’s Return to School Plan will be presented:

- July 10 – School calendar, transportation and lunch
- July 17 – Student expectations for blended and remote learning
- July 24 – Student schedules
- July 31 – First week of school schedule
- August 7 – Safety, questions and answers

Should you have any questions, please reach out to your building administration. We ask for your continued patience and flexibility as we move forward with planning efforts.

Sincerely,
Dr. Jim McKay
Superintendent



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