



CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 51

Encourage Excellence Every Day with Compassion, Commitment, and Community

July 8, 2020

Dear Central 51 families,

I hope this message finds you and your family safe and well. We sent out a parent survey on Wednesday, July 1, 2020, to be completed by yesterday. We received 659 responses to our survey from our parents. That is remarkable and we appreciate you taking the time to provide your thoughts and feedback. Our Central 51 Transition Team is meeting on Thursday, July 9, 2020 and will analyze the results from the survey.

The team will be meeting over the next three weeks to develop a plan to be released the first week in August. We will start school with student instruction on Tuesday, September 8, 2020 as released earlier in our Board approved [calendar](#). With the later start date due to our construction and renovation, we hope to have the most up-to-date information from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). As you may be aware, guidance is changing daily and planning will be fluid throughout the summer.

Ideally, we want our students to be here learning and thriving in our schools every day if the local data supports this and the proper measures can be in place. Our number one priority remains the safety and well-being of our students and staff when planning to open school to in-person learning for the 2020-2021 school year. The custodial staff have been and will be disinfecting/cleaning thoroughly throughout each day and after school. Central will implement safety protocols to the highest degree possible for our students and staff. However, regardless of the measures we take, there is some level of risk when students and school district employees occupy our schools during these times. Please keep in mind that if the guidelines change or there is an increased risk within our school or region, there is always a possibility we will be required to move to remote learning full time.

Currently, our team is considering many options. While no decision has been made, some of the options include:

- full day every day with all students following the recommended safety measures such as masks and social distancing as much as possible.
- a shortened day schedule five days a week for only five hours per day to complete the core subjects.
- a blended schedule of in-person and remote learning, alternating the days students are in the building to allow for more physical distancing.
- remote learning five days per week if required to do so.

There may be other options that we consider once the Transition Team meets. The goal is to have as much in-person instructions as possible while meeting safety guidelines.

We are very mindful that the decisions we make have a tremendous impact on our families and staff. Each family and staff member may have different needs or concerns, and we will try to accommodate these needs to the best of our ability. As you see plans released by other school districts with earlier start dates, we ask for your patience and understanding as we work to develop a plan that best meets the needs of our school community and the guidelines from IDPH and ISBE.

We are committed to keeping our school community informed, and as information becomes available we will release it to our families and staff. We appreciate your support and hope you enjoy the rest of your week. Take care!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Dale Heidbreder".

Dale Heidbreder, Superintendent