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Return to School Plan

7-10-2020

Community High School District 117 Families,

Please find attached a **DRAFT** School Calendar for the 2020 – 21 school year. The District's Return to School Committee worked this week to amend the school calendar so that it is more responsive to the challenges and needs of a blended remote learning approach. We believe the calendar allows more time for teacher planning and individualized help for students. Additionally, significant consideration to aligning with our five elementary feeder districts was important because we know families have students in both school districts. Please know that the reality in our local schools (conditions, space, staffing, needs, students, etc.) is unique. The differences between our facilities and varying situations does impact our ability to mirror one another in our planning. We will continue to coordinate, and plan together, as our area districts are collaborative partners.

I want to highlight some important changes to this calendar:

- The District is currently working on a schedule for the first two weeks (August 12-21) of school. During this period, we are planning a rotational schedule so that all students experience an in-person back to school orientation. This schedule will be communicated on July 31^{st} .
- Nearly every Friday, as indicated in green, will be a student remote learning day. Fridays, are designed to allow for individualized help, planning and collaborative time for teachers, and a deeper cleaning of the schools. Some of the elementary feeder districts are also planning remote learning days on Fridays.
- Two additional Non-Attendance Days, one per semester. Monday, September 28 and Monday, April 26th provide students, staff and families a brief break.
- Thanksgiving week (November 23 27), students will be out of school. Considering many of the elementary feeder districts schedules, CHSD 117 adjusted the calendar to allow families a break for the entire week.
- Barring any need to use an emergency day, the last day of school is scheduled to be Wednesday, May 26th, 2021.

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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