

**Iroquois County CUSD #9**  
**1411 W. Lafayette Street**  
**Watseka, IL 60970**

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we plan for in-person instruction, we also know that there is a possibility for our state or schools in our region to be mandated to move back to Phase 3 and remote learning for all students. A committee has been formed to strengthen our expectations and accountability if we should find ourselves on full-time remote learning at any time during the school year. The committee will also be working on planning for enhanced experiences for those students who must enroll in remote learning due to documented medical concerns. We look forward to the day Illinois moves to Phase 5, which would mean a complete return to full-time traditional instruction.

As stated in our general plan released on Friday, we are currently working on several pieces of our detailed information to be shared with you.

This week, you can expect more information as we solidify our current plan. Please understand these plans may change at any time based on the Illinois State Board of Education and CDC/IDPH guidelines.

- A Calendar for August and September
- Building Specific Plans
- A Forum for Answering Questions
- A Survey to Help Us Plan For Registration (In-Person or Remote)
- Pictures of Classrooms and Building Tour Information
- Laptop distribution

Each building administrator will be meeting with staff tomorrow. Staff input is vital in supporting the safety of our students. The information stated above will begin to be shared on Wednesday. Until this information is released, the following Q and A is designed to answer some of the more pressing questions we are receiving.

**Q: Why are PreK-5 grades able to attend all day and 6-12 grades not?**

**A:** Grades PreK-5 are self-contained classes where social distancing and movement can be controlled safely. The rooms for these grade levels are big enough to support 6 foot social distancing and the scheduling of specials such as Physical Education and Music. At grade levels 6-12, subject areas are departmentalized. Coupled with varying class sizes, varying room sizes and movement within the building, social distancing guidelines are not possible. We are not able to move site specific areas such as Music, Band, Science, Art, FFA classes. By going to an A/B schedule we are able to accommodate social distancing and movement within the schools safely for all students.

**Q: Can you explain what an A/B schedule means?**

**A:** Students on an A/B schedule means they will be attending school every other day. On the days they are not in attendance, they will be required to check-in and are responsible for assignments given by their teachers either from the day they attended or preparation for the following day. All grades will be counted this year.

**Q: Why are we releasing early until September 18th?**

**A:** There are two parts to this answer. First, this has nothing to do with Phase 4 other than we are expecting above average temperatures. Not having air conditioning in our buildings, the average temperature inside is anywhere between 5 and 15 degrees hotter than outside. The second part has to do with wearing a mask. While we will schedule outside breaks for students and utilize outside space when available, we cannot count on the weather to cooperate. This accommodation is to help students adapt slowly to wearing a mask at school.

**Q: I don't understand what you mean by the Heat/Early Dismissal schedule. What is the difference?**

**A:** Last year, these schedules were different. They are now the same. To add to that, all Wednesdays last year were early release schedules. We have added several professional development days to the calendar. By adding these days, it is no longer necessary to have every Wednesday an early release day. It will now only be on the second Wednesday of the month. Our new calendar will reflect this change and robo calls will be utilized to inform all parents the night before any change in schedule.

**Q: How do I sign-up for remote learning this year?**

**A:** A survey will be going out shortly. This will explain the procedure for helping us plan for remote learning. Registration on August 3rd and 4th will have this information available.

**Q: What is self-certification and how will that affect my child?**

**A:** Self-certification is a form completed either by the parent or student, depending on age. This form certifies that the parent has taken the temperature of their child and they are free of COVID-19 symptoms. By self-certifying each day, they are no longer required to have their temperature taken when entering the building.

**Q: Can I sign-up for remote learning until the weather gets cooler and then return to school?**

**A:** No. By signing up for remote learning, you are making a commitment to either a quarter or possibly a semester in that platform. Teachers are not able to teach both in-person and remote learning platforms at the same time.

**Q: What happens if my child or teacher tests positive for COVID-19?**

**A:** We are following the IDPH guidelines. With all schools following the 6 foot distance guidelines and no contact for more than 15 minutes less than 6 feet, contact tracing is kept to a minimum. In the event there is a positive test, the nurse will be in contact about the proper procedures in the event this occurs and what you will need to do in order to return to school.

Our staff is working very hard at getting ready to return to school. Our administrators are focused on the safety of our students and staff. We are doing everything we can to ensure a safe return to school with options to meet the needs of our entire student body. We know you have questions and concerns. It is our intention to meet these questions and concerns head on so that we can work together for what is best for our students. Together, we will strive for what is best in educating our Unit 9 population in the safest environment we can provide. Together, we will see this through. Please support us as we navigate through this pandemic. I know you want what is best for your circumstances. So do we. Together, we will do our best to make that happen.

Sincerely,

Dr. David Andriano, Superintendent

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