



# SUPERIOR CENTRAL SCHOOLS



P.O. Box 148 Eben Junction, MI. 49825    Ph: (906) 439-5532    EL Fax: (906) 439-5734    HS Fax: (906) 439-5243

July 28, 2020

Dear Superior Central Community,

I know that many of you have been anxiously awaiting any news from the school regarding the upcoming school year. This has been an interesting summer for sure. I know that I have said “I don’t know” more in the last 4 months than I have in my entire life. Like you, I too, have concerns and stress about the 2020-2021 school year. We spent most of the early summer waiting for the “Return to School Roadmap” from the Governor’s office. Once we received the “Roadmap” at the end of June, we began dissecting it.

The “Roadmap” provides scenarios for schools opening in the fall based on the status of MI Safe Schools:

1. Phases 1-3 – Schools do not open for in-person instruction and instruction is provided remotely.
2. Phase 4 – Schools are open for in-person instruction with more stringent required safety protocols.
3. Phase 5 – Schools are open for in-person instruction with moderate required safety protocols.
4. Phase 6 – Schools are open for in-person instruction with minimal required safety protocols.

Under Executive Order 2020-142, all schools in Michigan are required to submit a “COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan” laying out how we will “cope with the disease across the various phases”. We have spent a great deal of time looking at the safety protocols for returning to school; with much of the discussion and time placed on the wearing of face coverings. On July 27<sup>th</sup>, the Superior Central Board of Education adopted our plan which will require all staff and students to wear a facial covering during the school day. We understand that we will need to provide flexibility for our younger students, students with special needs, and students with other medical conditions. We fully understand that our students will need more outside breaks and even outdoor lessons to provide a break from this requirement. While this initial approach may seem rigid, we are trying to do everything possible to keep our school in face-to-face learning while protecting our students and staff. We know that the vast majority of students learn better face-to-face while in school. We also know that being in school allows parents to work and allows students to socialize. Our plan is to reevaluate the facial covering requirement after the first four weeks of school.

We also understand that parents may be reluctant to send their student back to school for face-to-face learning while in Phases 4 or 5. With this knowledge, we have reached out to Edgenuity, an online education provider, to create the Superior Central Online Academy (SCOA). K-12 students who choose not to return to face-to-face learning can still enroll at Superior Central and be a part of the SCOA. Students would still be Superior Central students but would learn online, at home, receiving instruction



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from a Michigan certified teacher through Edgenuity. If you would like more information regarding the Superior Central Online Academy, please call or email me so we can discuss it, and potentially begin the enrollment process.

If we are pushed back into Phase 3, our alternative modes of instruction will look quite different than last spring. As you know, we were given limited time to prepare our plan and we have obviously reflected on things that were both successful and unsuccessful. To streamline the process, Phase 3 learning will take place with our teachers utilizing Google Classroom. We learned, by reflecting on last spring and through your comments on the Parent Survey, that there were too many places to go online for instruction. If we are in Phase 3, all online learning will connect through Google Classroom. For students who have internet access at home but do not have a device, Chromebooks will be issued. For students who do not have internet access we will provide copies of pre-recorded teacher lessons and assignments on flash drives and paper and pencil assignments. Assuming that we can start the year face-to-face, we plan on teaching students our alternate modes of instruction using Google Classroom in the face-to-face setting weekly in preparation for a move to Phase 3. We feel this will help make for an easy transition if we are forced to close our doors to in-person instruction.

Finally, thank you for your patience and understanding as we move through this process. It's been long, and I know that you all want answers. I want to thank those of you who completed our parent survey. You can find the results of the survey at [www.superiorcentralschools.org](http://www.superiorcentralschools.org) under the "News" section on the homepage.

As always, please reach out with any questions or concerns. There will be more information provided to you in the next couple of weeks.

Sincerely,

Bill Valima  
Superintendent/K-12 Principal