



# SALT CREEK SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 48

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF ELMHURST • OAK BROOK • OAKBROOK TERRACE • VILLA PARK

[www.saltcreek48.org](http://www.saltcreek48.org)

Dr. Jake Chung  
Superintendent of Schools

August 17, 2020

Dear Salt Creek District 48 Families:

We look forward to the start of the 2020-2021 school year and we are dedicated to opening school to the greatest extent possible. Our goal is to resume in-person instruction and to prioritize the health and safety of our students and employees. I understand the recommendations made by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and we have continually reviewed the information that has been shared by both organizations. Since March 13, 2020 we have had hundreds of discussions on how we could re-open our schools, but we continue to be challenged by COVID-19 in a direct and indirect manner. Unfortunately, the pandemic continues to impact many of our decisions.

We know that the start of this school year will look different from previous ones. As you are aware, Salt Creek School District 48 had planned for an in-person hybrid model. We have spent countless hours preparing for this model of instruction and our hope was to have our students return in August for in-person instruction. While we are committed to the hybrid model, we will recommend to the Board of Education that we postpone the start of this framework because of several factors at their August 19, 2020 meeting.

1) Our hybrid plan has been impacted by a large number of school districts throughout our local area having shifted to an eLearning model within the past few weeks. This has had a significant impact on our ability to properly staff our schools at this time. This is no fault of our staff, but based on factors created by other school districts in our area. Our staff members have been ready to go, but have been impacted by the decisions of other school districts.

2) We have concerns about the Illinois Department of Public Health guidelines stating that anyone with a COVID-19 symptom being required to self-quarantine for a minimum of 10 days or to be administered a COVID-19 test. Many of the symptoms below are what schools commonly encounter on a daily basis.

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fever or Chills
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat

*“Teaching Tomorrow’s Leaders”*



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- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

3) In addition, we are still awaiting a specific metric from the DuPage County Health Department to help school districts determine if we should open in an in-person environment or in an eLearning setting.

Therefore, Salt Creek School District 48 is implementing a 'Transitional Model of Reopening' for the beginning of this school year. This model is based on the goal of bringing our students and staff together by returning to a hybrid model of learning through a safe and gradual process. Our school year will begin with an eLearning framework on August 27, 2020. All students will begin their instruction in this manner and we are confident that this experience will be different from last spring. We will reassess where we are and present this at our September 16, 2020 Board of Education meeting with a goal of returning to an in-person hybrid model of learning beginning in mid-September. Our hope is to bring back our students in a staggered manner. The second attachment has further information on what this might look like. In addition, the Oakbrook Park District and the Right at School programs are looking to provide student childcare for our families.

I understand that this information will disappoint a number of our stakeholders and elicit support from others. I also know the potential hardship that this will bring about as well. Our success as a school district will be based on our ability to come together during these unknown and challenging times.

Thank you for all of the flexibility and for the continued support you will provide to your children, our staff members, and your neighbors. We are and will remain D48 strong!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jake Chung". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Dr. Jake Chung

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