



Communication Update

September 28, 2020

Dear CCS Family Members,

I hope you are well and managing the stress of the times we are in. Recently, principal letters were emailed and mailed to families outlining what the first days of school in hybrid model will look like. In addition, the principals, Mrs. Meccariello and Ms. Durkee created videos to show families what the hybrid in-person physical building will look like as we return to school on October 5.

This communication is meant to provide simple statements that may answer some of the most important clarification we've received recently through questions from families. We hope that this communication also helps to clarify information for our CCS families choosing 100% remote instructional choice during the hybrid model period.

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR ALL FAMILIES

- Visitors, *including family members (parents, grand-parents, siblings, etc.)*, will not be permitted to enter school buildings at any time, except by appointment, phoned in advance to the main office. Observation of this protocol is imperative and important to the safety of our students and staff.
- The reopening plan, dated August 25, is uploaded to the district's website. It has changed in some important ways, and an update is forthcoming. Changes will not affect the material plan nor the importance of safety protocols in the buildings. Changes are mostly attributed to bus transportation requirements for aides on school buses and instructional plans in each building.
- Please consult the revised "Social Contract" sent with your student's principal's letter. If your child(ren) present(s) with symptoms, it is important to alert the school, call your medical provider, and keep your child(ren) home until they are cleared to come back to school. Depending upon the result through a determination from your medical provider or, if necessary, the department of health, your child may be eligible to return to school in either a matter of hours *or* after an advised period relevant to your child(ren)'s particular case. Please remember that symptoms in one child in the household has implication for other children in the same household. Alert the school nurse's office in all cases.
- Personal devices, owned by students, will have access to the district's online servers. Please report any problems related to accessing instruction to information technology (IT) related questions to the IT Help Desk at 607-766-3800.
- Mrs. Romona Wenck will serve as Interim Superintendent, beginning October 1, 2020. If necessary she may be contacted at rwenck@cooperstowncs.org or by calling 518-547-5364.
- Mask breaks will be provided as stated in the reopening plan.
- All families must complete the online COVID-19 Screening – DAILY – for each student attending in-person during the hybrid model beginning October 5, 2020. "Blue" and "Orange" COVID-19 Screening Sheets need to be completed DAILY, as well for all student using district transportation (orange) and/or elementary students who do not use district transportation (blue).
- Air circulation in classrooms has been increased in classrooms to facilitate air flow consistent with regulatory requirements.

- During the hybrid model (beginning October 5) *instruction will not be live for families who have chosen 100% remote instructional choice*. 100% remote instruction, while substantially equivalent to students who are taking instruction in-person, will be five days of continuous instruction via Google Classroom (pre-recorded lessons, videos, research, writing, and practice assignments). This is important to note.
- A cleaning schedule for school facilities will be posted on the district's website beginning October 1, 2020.
- It is the expectation of the district that all students, whether in-person or 100% remote, attend the daily meeting, either virtually or in-person each day, Monday through Friday.
- Transportation route assignments will be communicated with families by Friday, October 2, 2020. Orange COVID-19 Screening Sheets for all students using district transportation will be mailed to homes in advance of October 5 and shall be completed by families of those students each day.
- All students, regardless of in-person, remote, free & reduced rate, etc. may be entitled to free breakfast and lunch. Please contact Melissa Rathbun at 607-547-2820.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SPECIFIC INFORMATION

- Special parking and drop-off arrangements will be communicated to Kindergarten families only so that arrival for the first big day is positive and successful.
- The arrival and dismissal of all students, grades 1-6, on October 5 will be the same as in previous years.
- COVID-19 Screening Sheets for all walking students (blue) will be handed out on the first day of school; the COVID-19 Screening Sheets for all students transported by the district (orange) will be received by families in the postal mail.

JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL SPECIFIC INFORMATION

- The correct time for the beginning of school is **8:05**, *not 8:20*. Attendance and daily meeting will be at 8:05 a.m. for both 100% remote and in-person students each day.
- Please follow morning drop-off information (special signs posted). Drop off for all students will be at the Sterling Auditorium entrance, as usual.

My last day serving the Cooperstown Central School District will be Wednesday, September 30, 2020. Mrs. Wenck will assume interim leadership on October 1, 2020. The district is in good hands. The CCSD Board of Education, Administration, and Faculty and Staff are committed to safety and quality instruction as we continue the reopening plan into the hybrid model beginning October 5, 2020.

With everyone's trust, patience, some grace, and full understanding that much of what we're doing in our journey to reopen schools fully is new for everyone – including our families, we will reopen fully at some point this year. I trust CCSD will be successful because of everyone's unified mindset that we are still in this together. Educating children are the reason we are here to do the work we need to do – this, and important considerations for community safety, need to underlie each decision we make.

It has been my pleasure to serve CCS and its community. I look forward to being supportive to the school district and its good work in my capacity as a school district taxpayer and resident for many years to come.

Yours Very Truly,

Dr. C