

Dear CDSD Parents & Guardians:

Last evening, after careful consideration and consultation with the District's medical team, our School Board has voted to take a major step in returning our students back to their classrooms. The Board decided that, starting on October 13, 2020, students in Kindergarten through 5th grade will be returning to fulltime in-person instruction. Students in grades 6 through 12 will continue in the District's hybrid model, with middle schools set to return November 2, 2020. The status of the high schools will be reviewed monthly.

This move to in-person instruction for our elementary students marks significant progress toward our ultimate goal of returning all of our students to their classrooms. We are grateful for how our student body, staff and community have adapted to the health and safety protocols put in place to safely and successfully teach in-person during the pandemic.

The District is continuing to take precautions to protect all students. Those precautions are set forth in the Board's updated Health and Safety Plan.

<https://www.cdschools.org/cms/lib/PA09000075/Centricity/Domain/1/Health%20and%20Safety%20Plan%20CDS%20-%2010.5.2020.pdf>

Although the transition from hybrid to full in-person instruction at the elementary schools will roughly double the number of students in those buildings, and the higher density of students will mean that it is unlikely there will be 6 feet of social distancing at all times, the District is taking measures to allow for physical distancing to the maximum extent possible.

The District will continue with its intensive cleaning and disinfecting initiative. We are increasing our custodial staff, and are cleaning and disinfecting in the following ways:

- Regular daily cleaning.
- Sanitization of each building on a rotating basis.
- Intensive cleaning of rooms with suspected cases.
- Staff will continue to be provided with disinfectant and paper towels for use.

We are also implementing the new on-site COVID-19 testing program, which offers immediate testing upon the onset of symptoms and has a quick turn-around in test results. This testing will not only allow symptomatic students to quickly receive COVID-19 test results, it will also help the District to mitigate an outbreak in our buildings and keep our kids safely in school full-time.

While we are very excited about progressing toward full in-person instruction, we understand that we must be flexible and maintain the ability to adapt. If circumstances require us to scale back in-person instruction, we have the capability to shift back into the hybrid model. We also continue to offer our CORE remote learning program to our students who may not yet be comfortable with a full return to the classroom.

I want to thank each member of our school community for your patience and resilience as we continue to navigate the ever-changing landscape of the COVID-19 pandemic. I am very excited to be welcoming our elementary students back to full in-person instruction!

Norm

Norman J. Miller, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Central Dauphin School District