



June 26, 2020

Dear Center Cass Parents and Guardians –

As your new Superintendent, I appreciate the warm welcome from the greater Center Cass community. I absolutely love the people of our community. It is apparent that when this community is faced with adversity, it comes together for the greater good of students.

As you are aware, Governor Pritzker released Illinois' guidance for reopening schools in August. Although the 60-page document provides specific guidance for school operations, there are five overarching requests the State is making of schools. The State is requesting

- everyone wears face coverings while inside the school;
- students be socially distanced (preferably 6 feet apart when feasible);
- limit the number of people in any one space to 50 people;
- pre-certify and/or screen everyone entering the building to decrease chance of virus entering the school; and
- disinfect surfaces between use.

In anticipation of the guidance above, Administration, in conjunction with the Board and Association, have created scenarios to reopen all Center Cass schools in August. Please note, the scenario is not an approved plan, and given we are in the middle of a pandemic, could change. Center Cass schools could reopen in the Fall with students in attendance everyday if

- parents assist with transporting students to school, as we are limited to the number of students who can be on a bus at any one time (more information to follow);
- we stagger start times for the three schools, Ide could be 7:40 am; Prairieview could be 8:15 am; and Lakeview could be 8:50 am;
- we have a modified and possibly shorter school day, while still providing lunch;
- we convert a few non-classroom areas into classrooms to decrease class size;
- we reduce class sizes to socially distance to the greatest extent possible;
- we screen students at the door of bus and building for PPE and symptoms (pre-certification of symptom free and/or thermal scans);
- we have separate entrances and exits for bus riders and parental drop offs;
- we conduct daily sanitation and sanitizer was readily available;
- and
- we change schedules to limit student contact with others outside their cohort.



It will take a significant financial and human resource contribution to reopen schools in August under the Governor's guidelines, as the District will need to add resources to meet the new guidelines, but your Board, Administration, and Association stand ready to reopen Center Cass safely for students to learn onsite during the 2020-2021 school year. At any time, the Governor may close schools down again to protect public health and we will be ready to move back to a remote environment.

We will continue to work through scenario details and ensure the feasibility of the scenario before presenting a plan to the Center Cass School Board at the July Board of Education meeting. From our conversations with parents and community members, having students in school every day is the preferred option, and the one we are working diligently to provide. Please know that the public health of our Community, County, and State will dictate our ability to provide in-person instruction, and as guidance changes, we will need to change our delivery as well.

Final decisions on the reopening of schools will be made at the July Board meeting. Over the course of the next month, we will be reaching out to you to discuss AM/PM options for Kindergarten; requesting parents to transport their own children if they can; providing draft schedules for our Lakeview Junior High students; and providing more details on how students will be socially distanced with PPE inside school buildings.

We understand that you will have lots of questions. We are in the process of getting answers from the Illinois Department of Education and the Illinois State Board of Education. We anticipate having more information to share with you, and being better able to answer questions in a few weeks.

The only way we can reopen schools in August is with your help. I humbly request your assistance in helping us open our doors again for your children and look forward to partnering with you on this endeavor.

Educationally Yours,

Dr. Andrew S. Wise  
Superintendent of Schools