

Dear Parents & Families,

After nearly two weeks of offering seniors and juniors the chance to be back in our buildings 4 days a week, I am encouraged by the progress we have made on our path towards returning to traditional instruction. The Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Department of Health recently provided [Part 4](#) of their revision to the public health guidance for schools. These new directives provided new guidance supporting the return to in-person learning when practicable, giving us the ability to welcome additional students back to 4 days of in-person instruction while maintaining our commitment to the safest possible learning environment.

The guidance outlines some notable changes that support our initiatives for in-person learning:

- **Social Distancing:** According to updated guidance from the CDC, ISBE and IDPH, appropriate social distance for in-person learning is now defined as 3 to 6 feet for students and fully vaccinated staff, with 6 feet being safest.
- **Face Coverings:** The allowances of social distance of 3 to 6 feet means that schools must continue to require universal masking, regardless of whether schools use social distance of 3 feet or 6 feet.
- **Temperature Checks:** ISBE and IDPH no longer recommend temperature screening upon arrival at school, while they do recommend continuing to self-screen for COVID-19-like symptoms prior to arriving to school or boarding the bus.
- **Occupancy Limits:** Capacity limits for common spaces (i.e. cafeterias, gymnasiums, study halls) during in-person learning are now determined by the space's ability to accommodate social distancing of 3 to 6 feet, with 6 feet being safest.

Currently, community transmission in our buildings remains low with only eight active positive COVID cases district wide. This trend, coupled with our staff's recent COVID vaccinations and the adjusted guidelines above, give us the ability to safely offer our freshmen and sophomores the opportunity to return to our buildings.

### **Return of Freshmen & Sophomores**

In light of the success we've had with seniors and juniors, and the ability of our buildings to accommodate larger class sizes with 3 to 6 feet of social distancing, **we will be offering current hybrid freshmen and sophomore students the opportunity to return to 4 days per week of in-person instruction after spring break beginning Monday, April 5.**

- All students will continue to follow the current second semester schedule with four synchronous days (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday) and one asynchronous day (Wednesday) per week for the rest of the semester. The second semester daily schedule will also remain the same.

- **If your student is enrolled in a specialized program (FCS, FLS, Lifeskills or STRIVE) they will continue to attend in-person five days per week. Students at Haber Oaks will also continue to follow their current schedule.**

In an effort to ensure the highest level of understanding and cooperation with our students and families, we ask that you please review the attached FAQ and [Updated IDPH COVID-19 Exclusion Guidance](#) regarding the safety mitigations and COVID-19 procedures that will be in place after spring break. Our nursing staff would like to thank all our families for their continued patience and flexibility as we work to maintain the safety of all students and staff in an ever-changing situation. Your collaboration and support makes an in-person learning environment possible for our students. As we approach the final stretch of second semester, we have a few more updates to make you aware of.

### **Transportation Pick Up Time Change - Asynchronous Wednesdays**

Due to our transportation partnership with District 47, bus pick up times on asynchronous Wednesdays will change beginning Wednesday, April 7. Bus drivers or a school administrator will notify students of changes to their pick up times prior to Wednesday, April 7. Transportation pick up times for synchronous learning days on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday will **not** change. If you have additional questions regarding your student(s)' transportation, please contact the TJA transportation office at (815) 455-0558.

### **Schedule Change - April 13 Due to State Mandated Spring Testing**

#### **\*Tuesday, April 13 Changes to an Asynchronous Day\***

- Juniors will attend school on Tuesday, April 13 to participate in the state-sponsored SAT exam.
- Asynchronous lessons and/or activities will be provided for freshmen, sophomores and seniors.
- Students who attend specialized programs (FCS, FLS, and Lifeskills) will attend school in-person on Tuesday, April 13. They will be dismissed at 12:53 p.m. Students in the STRIVE program will follow their normal schedule.
- Students at Haber Oaks will have an asynchronous day, as well.
- Athletics and activities will continue on Tuesday, April 13 as scheduled.

#### **\*Wednesday, April 14 Changes to an In-Person Learning Day\***

To avoid two asynchronous days in one week, students will attend in-person Wednesday, April 14 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:50 p.m. Students enrolled in full-time remote learning will follow their normal synchronous learning day schedule.

### **Meal Distribution Over Spring Break**

Food service will be available over break on **Monday, March 29 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** at Crystal Lake Central High School (45 W. Franklin Ave in Crystal Lake) at the field house entrance off of Walkup. Parents or students will receive meals for one week.

### **End of Year Events**

Graduation is scheduled for Saturday, May 15 and will take place outdoors with all appropriate safety mitigations at each of our buildings. In lieu of prom, a celebratory event will be held at each of our buildings on Friday, May 14 for seniors. Current juniors may also be invited to attend, depending on COVID-19 mitigation efforts and gathering limitations at the time of the event. As we continue to monitor changing capacity and safety regulations from the state, students and parents will receive specific details regarding these events after spring break.

Decisions regarding outside of school events such as prom and graduation ceremonies will be made in consultation with the local public health department. Though the revised guidance provides an opportunity to hold these celebrations for our students in-person, District 155 will continue to follow the recommendations of the CDC, IDPH and MCDH to provide the safest possible environment for our students and families.

We are looking forward to finishing this school year with some of the familiar experiences and feelings of togetherness that have been dearly missed over the past year. Thank you for your continued commitment to the well-being of our students, staff and community.

Sincerely,

Steve Olson  
Superintendent