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A Fully Accredited, Missouri A+ School District...

Dear Center School District Families,

We know that you have questions about the upcoming year. We have reattached our letter that was distributed over the weekend and have included further details to hopefully answer more of your questions. While we still have details to work through, we want to provide as much information as possible to assist in your family's decision making.

At this point in our planning, Center School District anticipates starting the school year with some students participating in a **Full Virtual Option** (via *Launch*) and some students participating in the **Fixed Blended Option**. We have purchased enough technology devices for K-12 students to provide each student access to either a Chromebook or laptops. The **Fixed Blended Option**, in which students attend school in-person two (2) days a week on a fixed rotation schedule, allows for reduced capacity, as no more than 50% of our student body will be present in the school at the same time.

We understand that we are requesting families to fill out the survey and chose an academic option before we have released the plan in its entirety. However, to plan for staffing and placement decisions, we need to have an idea of how many families would elect the **Full Virtual Option**. After submitting a request for the **Full Virtual Option**, families will be contacted prior to any final decisions. Families may have an opportunity to choose another option, if space allows, after the July 22 deadline. Thank you for your understanding as we continue to plan through these unprecedented challenges.

More details regarding the Fixed Blended Option:

- **A Fixed Blended Option:** Students will attend school on an A/B schedule which means students will spend part of their week with face-to-face learning and the other part will be distance/virtual learning. The curriculum will be aligned to the Missouri Learning Standards. Essential standards will be taught and assessed across grade levels or departments by Center School District teachers. Lessons both face-to-face and virtually will ensure high quality and rigor for all students. Please note, we will work to keep family groups coordinated so that siblings may attend school on the same days of the week.
- **For elementary:** Students will be broken into two groups. Group 1 will be in person for 2 days; group 2 will be in person for 2 days. Day 5 will be some online learning through Microsoft Teams, Google Classrooms, and other online platforms with all students. On days students are present, it will be a regular schedule with all content areas addressed along with special classes, teaching supports and breaks for lunch, and some activity time.
- **For secondary:** Students will be broken into two groups. Group 1 will be in person for 2 days; group 2 will be in person for 2 days. Day 5 will be some online learning through Microsoft Teams, Google Classrooms, and other online platforms with all students. Face-to-face learning will be divided into blocks. The first day a group is present, they will attend periods 1-4 each having extended learning time to provide a quality curriculum with time to meet individual student needs (approximately 80-90 minute blocks). The next time they are in the building, they will attend periods 5-7 and an intervention block. Those will be structured in the same way as blocks 1-4. This will lessen transition time in the hallways and provide more learning time for teachers to thoroughly cover content and provide the needed review, as well as the advancement of new learning.
- **Real World Learning** (Summit Technology Academy, Herndon Technical Center, Internships, Technical Programs) Students enrolled in Real World Learning opportunities with cooperating districts or industry partnerships will follow the guidelines of those cooperating institutions and businesses. If students decide to opt-out of these opportunities, they will be enrolled in District classes and follow our A/B Fixed Blended Option schedule.
- **Special Education:** A member of the Special Education Department will contact parents/guardians of students with IEPs to discuss the instructional option selected, distance learning needs, and the addition of a Distance

Learning Plan to each student IEP. If you have questions before making a decision, please email the Director of Special Services, Meagan Patterson, at mpatterson@center.k12.mo.us.

Health and Safety Precautions for Onsite Instruction

When Center School District students and staff are physically present in our schools, all reasonable best efforts to minimize risk will be made. However, because attending school in-person will introduce a greater risk of exposure, the following enhanced health and safety precautions will be in place:

Masks and PPE

- Staff will be required to wear a face mask or face covering when in shared public spaces throughout Center School District buildings.
- Based on guidance from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Center School District is exploring whether, and to what extent, face masks will be required for students, Grade PreK-5, when in shared public spaces throughout Center School District buildings.
- Based on guidance from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, students (Grades 6-12) will be required to wear a mask or face covering when in shared public spaces throughout Center School District buildings.
- All students will be required to wear a mask on District buses.
- Each student and staff member will be provided a mask at the start of school. Students and Staff will be required to bring a mask to school each day and also clean and disinfect masks at home. Additionally, face shields will also be provided to CSD staff as appropriate.
 - Exceptions to the face covering requirement are as follows:
 - Face coverings should not be placed on young children under age 2.
 - People who have disabilities:
 - prevent them from comfortably wearing or taking off face coverings
 - prevent them from communicating while wearing face coverings
 - People who have respiratory conditions or breathing trouble
 - People who have been told by a medical, legal, or behavioral health professional not to wear face coverings

Social Distancing and Self-Screening

- Social distancing of 3 to 6 feet will be maintained when possible
- Staff and Students will conduct daily at home self-screenings before entering our buildings. They should not enter our buildings if in the past 14 days they have experienced:
 - a fever (100 or higher) or a sense of having a fever;
 - chills, cough, sore throat, headache;
 - new loss of smell or taste, new muscle aches;
 - international travel,
 - or if they or a close contact have been diagnosed or presumptively diagnosed with COVID-19

Stable Student Groups and Class Size

- All efforts will be made to maintain stable groups of students when possible/feasible throughout the school day including for example classrooms, mealtime and recess, though students will not be restricted to one classroom per day
- Class sizes will be reduced due to the A/B model but will dependent total enrollments in the **Fixed Blended Option**.
- Teachers will implement procedures designed to minimize risk and contact within classrooms and throughout buildings including, but not limited to, assigned seating, increased handwashing procedures, desks will be spaced to allow for physical distancing, students will be spaced apart to allow for physical distancing when they are in line, in the halls or areas where gatherings could be an issue, regular cleaning protocols, limited sharing of equipment, limited “class trips” to the restroom, etc.

Handwashing and Hand Sanitizer

- Students will receive ongoing education and reinforcement of health hygiene expectations related to masks, social distancing, handwashing, etc.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be available in each building, as well as an increased supply of hand sanitizer
- Handwashing will be routine throughout the day with an emphasis before and after recess, mealtime, using the restrooms and times when leaving the classroom.

Physical Space

- Plexiglas barriers in public spaces including all front offices as well as other advisable spaces
- Floor adhesives and separation markings in high-traffic areas
- Signage to inform and remind students and staff of hand hygiene, social distancing and other guidelines placed throughout buildings and in restrooms
- Students and staff will be encouraged to bring their own water bottles that can be refilled at touchless water bottle filling stations (drinking fountains not accessible)
- Classrooms and other group spaces will be reconfigured to allow for physical distancing
- Sharing objects, touchpoints and supplies will be limited (and eliminated if possible)
- Large group gatherings will be limited or not occur (e.g., field trips, back to school night, all-school assemblies, school-wide celebrations); determinations made on a case-by-case basis
- Weather permitting, student may go outside for physical education and music classes. Commonly touched surfaces and equipment will be avoided when possible and even social distancing beyond six feet may be appropriate in certain cases.
- Staff will implement all necessary cleaning protocols before, during and after school
- Higher emphasis and levels of disinfection on high touch surfaces/areas, for example, restrooms, classrooms, keyboard, and doorknobs.
- Adjust hall traffic patterns to minimize student contact
- Regulated access to entrances and exits

Visitors

- Non-essential visitors and visits will be limited
- Visitor protocols implemented in each building

COVID-19 Response Protocol

- If a school or building has a positive test for COVID-19, Center’s COVID-19 response protocol will be implemented immediately, and public health guidance will be followed and communicated as needed. Center School District will work in partnership with the Kansas City Health Department to notify individuals who should quarantine.

Transportation Precautions

- Students, staff, drivers, and monitors will be required to wear a mask or face covering when accessing district transportation. Each student and staff member will be provided with a mask.
- **Exceptions to the face covering requirement are as follows:**
 - Face coverings should not be placed on young children under age 2.
 - People who have disabilities:
 - prevent them from comfortably wearing or taking off face coverings
 - prevent them from communicating while wearing face coverings
 - People who have respiratory conditions or breathing trouble
 - People who have been told by a medical, legal, or behavioral health professional not to wear face coverings
- Families encouraged to provide transportation if at all possible to minimize risk and contact

- Disinfectant applied on buses after each morning and afternoon
- Bus and parent drop-off/pick-up zones may need to be modified to reduce congestion

Before and After Care

Center School District is currently working with our before and after school programs. We will update our procedures when we are able to reach a final agreement with our partners. The bulleted items below frame the initial conversation but decisions have not been finalized. We are working to provide options for students in K- 6 grade consistent with the in-person scheduled established by the Center School Districts.

- Students will be able to participate in the in-person before and after school program on days when they are physically at school.
- The before and after school programs will implement policies around social distancing and the wearing of masks consistent with District expectations.

While we are currently planning to start school in August with this reduced capacity in-person option, we realize conditions and public health recommendations change almost daily. If we are unable to return to school with any students in person or we are informed after the start of the school year that we cannot return to the buildings, we will also be prepared to provide instruction to all students through a distance learning model.

Thank you for your partnership as we work together to keep our community safe.

Thanks,
Center School District Leadership