



Dr. Yolanda Cargile, Superintendent
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Dear Center School District Community,

First, please accept my sincerest gratitude for all you have been doing to support our students. I have had the pleasure of joining several classrooms and am beyond proud of the instruction and engagement our staff is providing and the commitment our students have shown to learn and grow. Additionally, I know how hard parents and guardians have been working to help our scholars. Thank you for your partnership and cooperation during this pandemic.

For the last few weeks, District leaders have engaged in numerous conversations to discuss Second Semester (January 19, 2021,) plans and if moving to Phase 2 or a Hybrid/Fixed Blended model of instruction would pose less risk for our school community. District leaders along with regional superintendents and local public health officials have continued to evaluate public health data weekly. While we are beginning to see downward trends in regional COVID-19 tracking metrics, some numbers remain higher than we would like. For this reason, when we began processing our transition to Phase Two, we initially focused on Kindergarten through sixth-grade students.

However, as we prepare for the Monday, October 26 Board of Education update, we have continued to look at our student data, social-emotional needs and listen to feedback from staff, parents, guardians, and students. At this time, we are exploring a transition to Phase 2 of our CENTERed on Learning Plan, which allows a return to school in the Hybrid/Fixed Blended model for all students starting Second Semester.

We understand that some families with health and wellness concerns may want to remain in the Full Virtual model, while other families may be interested in choosing the Hybrid/ Fixed Blended model. Therefore, all families will be asked to complete a survey to identify their preferred learning mode for next semester.

For the Center School District, we want to provide a seamless academic transition, ensuring the least amount of disruption for scholars, allowing for adequate time to plan transition logistics as well as providing the opportunity to properly communicate updated developments.

As a reference, here are highlights from Phase 2 of the CENTERed on Learning Plan. If a final decision is made to transition to Phase 2, all students would return to in-person learning in a Hybrid/Fixed Blended learning environment beginning on January 19, 2021, unless families choose the Full Virtual Option.

- Students will engage in learning during ALL regularly scheduled school days.
- Students who choose the Hybrid/Fixed Blended option will be assigned to one of two groups: A or B.
- Students will follow an A/B schedule: Group A will attend Monday and Wednesday and Group B will attend Tuesday and Thursday. All students will participate in distance learning activities on Fridays as well as the days they are not attending school in-person.
- All students who do not complete the Learning Mode Request Survey will be assigned to the Hybrid/Fixed Blended Option.
- Efforts will be made when possible to keep family groups coordinated so that siblings may attend school on the same days of the week.
- Schools will work with families who have unique and justifiable circumstances on an individual basis to switch groups.

Phase 2 offers two learning modes:

- 1. Hybrid/Fixed Blended Option:** This option will allow a student to attend school on an A/B schedule which means they will spend two days per week with face-to-face learning and three days per week will be distance learning. Distance learning will include a variety of online activities, lessons, and assessments. Lessons both face-to-face and through distance learning will ensure high quality and rigor for all students and students will engage in learning during all regularly scheduled school days. We have implemented numerous safety and health guidelines, that include all students and staff wearing masks, social distancing, conducting daily self-screenings, implementing hand hygiene routines, and thorough cleaning and disinfecting of facilities. Please note, when possible efforts will be made to keep family groups coordinated so that siblings may attend school on the same days of the week.
- 2. Full Virtual Option:** This option will allow a student to remain a Center School District student and “attend” school online each day. Our first preference is for Center School District teachers to provide virtual instruction; however, we will determine staffing needs after families fill out the official Learning Mode Request Survey. Based on numbers, there may be a need to use outside programs to offer virtual instruction, but again our priority will be to connect students with CSD teachers.

Next Steps

We will hold a Virtual Town Hall meeting on Wednesday, October 21 from 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

To join the meeting click on the link below:

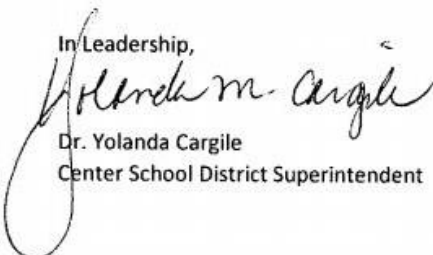
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We will also present an update to the Board of Education during the Monday, October 26 Board meeting.

We will be asking for parents/guardians to fill out an official Learning Mode Request Survey. We anticipate opening the survey on Tuesday, October 27 and it will remain open through Friday, November 6. Staffing needs will be based on the data received from the request. We are asking that families commit to a semester-long decision that best suits family needs as well as the child's learning needs. All parents/students who do not complete the request to select their preferred option will be assigned to the Hybrid/Fixed Blended model.

As I shared earlier, these have been some of the most difficult decisions I have had to make as a superintendent along with my team of District leaders. We want to do what is best for both students and staff. I also want to recognize the valuable input we received from stakeholder groups that included parents, students, health, business, and community representatives. So many members of our community volunteered their time and expertise to help craft this framework, alongside our Center School District subject-matter experts. As with all plans during the pandemic, we will remain flexible and able to pivot if and when public health concerns evolve.

Together, we achieve is a part of the Center School District mission statement and I have truly witnessed our mission in action with your partnership and support.

In Leadership,

Dr. Yolanda Cargile
Center School District Superintendent