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

Dear Center Community,

We have continued to look at our student data and social-emotional needs as well as listen to feedback from staff, parents, guardians, and students. While regional COVID-19 tracking metrics remain higher than we would like, we are weighing the benefits of in-person learning.

As we look at the community transmission rate, compared to the CSD transmission rate, we are seeing a wide gap. The Jackson County 14-day percent positive average per 1,000 population is most recently reported as 32 percent. Just last week this number was reported as 38 percent, so we are currently seeing a slight decline.

- Source: https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/34a6ef5efe664974a3c1866aa77fbb6d/page/page_1/

In comparison, looking at the Center School District percent positive cases, which includes students and staff who have reported to CSD and tested positive, the number currently sits a 1.44 percent.

- Source <https://www.center.k12.mo.us/covid-19>

From the beginning of the pandemic, our goal has been to find the balance between educating children and keeping our CSD community safe. It is important that parents and community members realize that we want ALL children in school now, but there are factors in the KC metro area that prevent that option from happening for all students. However, as we take into consideration the CSD percent of positive cases, we feel more comfortable increasing in-person learning opportunities for CSD scholars.

At this time, we are planning to transition to Phase 2 of our CENTERed on Learning Plan, allowing a return to school in the Hybrid/Fixed Blended model for PreK- 5th grade and Center Alternative students. We will also offer more in-person learning opportunities for varied middle school and high school targeted groups. We believe a staggered approach will allow for a smoother transition as we prepare for the next phases of learning for our community.

Monday, February 1, 2021

- CMS and CHS Special Programs: Modified in-person learning opportunities will be offered to all secondary students with IEPs who participate in the district's special programs, known as Futures and CASTLE. Parents/guardians will have the option to select this in-person offering or remain in the full-virtual model.
*(Parents/guardians of eligible students will be contacted by building staff with more detailed information by January 25th. Transportation will be provided.)

Wednesday, February 17, 2021

- Yellowjacket Early Learning Center students who choose Hybrid/Fixed Blended will transition to Phase 2
 - Kindergarten - 5th Grade students who choose Hybrid/Fixed Blended will transition to Phase 2
 - Center Alternative Students who choose Hybrid/Fixed Blended will transition to Phase 2
- *(After Learning Mode Survey results are analyzed, District officials will determine if we are able to increase the number of in-person learning days and adhere to the desired class size, not to exceed 16 students per class.)

Monday, February 22, 2021

- Identified targeted Seniors will be invited to join in-person learning Monday - Thursday. Fridays will remain virtual.
*(Building staff will contact parents no later than February 12, 2021 regarding Seniors being recommended for in-person support. Transportation will be provided.)
- Center High School identified targeted groups will be invited to join in-person learning opportunities Monday - Thursday. Fridays will remain virtual.
*(Building staff will contact parents no later than February 12, 2021 regarding CHS students being recommended for in-person support. Transportation will be provided.)

- Center Middle School identified targeted groups will be invited to join in-person learning opportunities Monday - Thursday. Fridays will remain virtual.
*(Building staff will contact parents no later than February 12, 2021 regarding CMS students being recommended for in-person support. Transportation will be provided.)

We anticipate this plan will be in effect through the remainder of the school year, however we will remain flexible as we continue to watch data and transmission rates.

For groups of students who are not included in the above cohorts, we will continue to determine when and if we can safely transition more students to in-person learning opportunities. Our plan includes inviting more identified targeted groups of 6-12th grade students to join in-person learning opportunities on a staggered schedule. We hope to begin bringing more students back every two weeks through March and early April. Parents/guardians of eligible students will be contacted by building staff with more detailed information as we move closer to March.

Learning Mode Parent Survey (January 22, 2021 - January 29, 2021.)

We understand that some families with health and wellness concerns may want to remain in the Full Virtual model. Students and families will have the opportunity to choose a learning mode that best suits your personal and family's needs through the learning mode survey. A new parent survey will be available on Friday, January 22, 2021 for Pre-K – 5th grade and Center Alternative students to identify their preferred learning mode for the remainder of the school year. For families who do not complete the survey by Friday, January 29, 2021 at 5:00 p.m., your students will remain enrolled in the virtual learning mode. Any late submissions will be added to a wait list for in-person learning. **The survey will be released on Friday, January 22 and remain open for one week, through Friday January 29, 2021.**

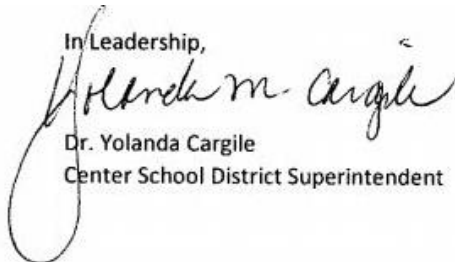
As a reference, here are highlights from Phase 2 of the CENTERed on Learning Plan.

- 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 the Full Virtual mode. Any late submissions will be added to a wait list for in-person learning.
- Efforts will be made, when applicable, 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.

At this point, we are asking families to make a commitment to a selection for the remainder of the year. We ask that families reach out to your building front office staff or the Academic Services office at 816.349.3303 or email sjohnston@center.k12.mo.us with questions.

We understand, there are some community members that may not agree with the extreme care and caution that we have acted on during this time, but please know it is based on our genuine concern for the safety of CSD children and staff. Our guiding mission will remain caring for our community.

Thank you again for your partnership and understanding during this time.

In Leadership,

Dr. Yolanda Cargile
Center School District Superintendent