

## MEMORANDUM

To: Members, Board of Education

From: Dr. John Deiter

Date: August 19, 2021

Re: 2021-22 Opening of School Plan

In compliance with federal requirements for public school districts receiving funds through the American Rescue Plan, Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Program Grant (ESSER III), the Board of Education will hold a public hearing on August 19, 2021 to share the Northbrook School District 27, 2021-22 Opening of School Plan.

At the hearing, the Board President can explain the purpose of the grant and the District's proposed plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and the continuity of services. After the plan is shared, the Board President can invite members of the public to make comments on the plan.

### **SUMMARY TO SHARE WITH COMMUNITY:**

For the 2021-22 school year, District 27 welcomes all students to full, in-person classes!

#### **Safety Operations**

In terms of operations, District 27 continues to follow COVID safety guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCPDH), and the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). The following COVID mitigation efforts will be adhered to, which include:

- **Face Masks** are required for all students, staff, and visitors, at all times (except for lunch) when inside our school buildings, regardless of vaccination status. This includes those students who are registered bus riders. Masking will be required for all bus riders while on the bus.
- **Physical Distancing** - In accordance with the guidance, we will operate at no less than 3 feet of physical distance for all students when in the classroom, in order to provide optimal in-person instruction. To the greatest extent possible, we should continue to adhere to no less than 6 feet between teacher/student as we have unvaccinated individuals in our classrooms.
- **Proper Hand Hygiene** - will be followed throughout the school day along with respiratory etiquette.
- **Cleaning/Disinfecting Procedures** - will continue to align with best practices to ensure a safe environment.
- **Ventilation** - the District will continue operations to ensure ventilation systems are running in alignment with best practice to the greatest extent possible, which includes

higher rated air filters, increased percentage of outside air intake, and opening of windows where feasible.

- Screening & Testing Program - we are moving forward with the implementation of the SHIELD Illinois Testing Program. SHIELD Illinois is a COVID-19 screening testing program and infrastructure that uses the University of Illinois' innovative saliva testing to help K-12 schools operate safely. SHIELD Illinois' test detects 3 genes of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, allowing it to identify pre-symptomatic and asymptomatic cases, as well as new virus variants.

### Instructional Planning

In terms of instruction, support, and extracurricular activities for students, Northbrook School District 27 has planned for a seamless transition to five days of in-person instruction for the 2021-22 school year, in alignment with following health and safety guidelines as stated above under Safety Operations.

### Current instructional plans include:

- Resuming master schedules for five days a week of in-person instruction
- Resuming athletics and activities
- Resuming use of hallway lockers and sharing of materials (aligned with proper hand hygiene)
- Providing an instructional delivery plan for quarantined students, to include a live streaming option
- Providing supports for students grades K-8 that have experienced incomplete learning (or learning loss) during the COVID pandemic
- Providing social-emotional support to students that responds to the COVID pandemic, including the establishment of routines and services in order to assist students with the return to in-person school
- Provide the technology tools/equipment to support the instructional plan for students and staff

We are cognizant of the fact that the COVID safety guidance will evolve as the 2021-22 school year progresses. As such, we will continue to update our Board of Education, staff, and community on the operations of the District as we progress through the school year.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

We look forward to continuing discussions on the instructional planning and operations for District 27 as we progress through the 2021-22 school year. The Administration will continue to update the District website and report out to the Board and community throughout the school year.