

Huron School District

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Completely Committed to Kids

Donovan Rowe, Superintendent
Jill Sauve, Business Manager

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Attention Huron Families,

As the summer draws to a close, the Huron School District is making plans for our students to return to learning. I know that families have questions pertaining to the upcoming school year, scheduling of classes, in-person learning, remote/online options, and cleaning/safety protocols. It is my sincere hope that this letter will help to provide answers to those questions.

As you know, Governor Whitmer has released her MI Safe Schools Return to School Roadmap. This document provides requirements, strong recommendations, and recommendations in the areas of Safety Protocols & PPE, Mental & Social-Emotional Health, Instruction, and Operations. In addition, the plan is designed to align with the regional phases outlined in the Governor's MI Safe Start Plan. The phases and corresponding connections to the Roadmap are listed below.

- Phases 1-3 No in-person instruction, remote learning only, and school buildings are closed
- Phase 4 In-person instruction is permitted with required safety protocols
- Phase 5 In-person instruction is permitted with minimal required safety protocols
- Phase 6 In-person instruction with a return to pre-pandemic protocols

The Huron School District is in Region 1 of the state, which includes Wayne and Monroe Counties, amongst others. Region 1 is currently in Phase 4 of the MI Safe Start Plan, allowing for in-person, face-to-face instruction, with required safety protocols.

We have surveyed our district staff and parents in order to get an understanding of the feelings of our educational community. It is clear that the majority of our parents and staff prefer some sort of face-to-face, in-person learning model. The Huron School District continues to work with the Wayne County Health Department and Wayne County RESA in order to develop schedules and protocols in order to provide the safest and most purposeful learning environment possible.

The health situation in the state is ever-changing. Given that this is a fluid situation, please keep in mind that the plans explained in this letter are subject to change. Although these instructional programs and protocols have been carefully planned and developed, the unstable situation in the state makes it necessary to be flexible and to remain nimble. Consequently, I want to give you the most recent information, while remaining aware that the plans are subject to change. The most recent plans for Face-to-Face learning and Remote learning options are described below.

Face-to-Face, In Person Instruction:

Elementary Students: Our current plans are designed to allow elementary students to attend school five days per week. The elementary teachers will practice a strategy known as "cohorting" their students, limiting the amount of other students that they are exposed to throughout the school day. Therefore, one class will stay together during the school day, and will not mix with larger groups of students, except during arrival and dismissal. We are hoping to offer specials during the school day; however, the availability of specials will depend on the need to redeploy staff for remote learning/online instruction. Lunch periods and recess are being planned in accordance with our cohorting model. The Huron School District will be providing a remote learning (online) option for parents who make that request. Please see

the Remote Learning Option section of this letter for more information about enrollment in the Huron Remote Learning Program.

Jr. High School & High School Students: Secondary students in grades 6-12 will be placed on a block schedule for their classes in order to limit the amount of passing times throughout the school day. Students will attend three classes per day, in-person, on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday for a full day. Lunch schedules are being planned in accordance with the block scheduling model. On Wednesdays, students will have remote learning days with their teachers. Students and teachers will have a remote learning schedule on these days, and students will engage with teachers remotely during those times. The Huron School District will be providing a remote learning (online) option for parents who make that request. Please see the Remote Learning Option section of this letter for more information about enrollment in the Huron Remote Learning Program.

Remote Learning Option:

The Remote Learning (Online) option is available for students for the 2020-2021 school year. The program is designed to allow Elementary, Jr. High School, and High School students to take all coursework remotely. This model will include schedules created to provide core academic instruction and will include synchronous and asynchronous learning throughout each trimester. **Parents opting to enroll students in the Huron Remote Learning Program, must complete the district provided Google form for every student in the household wishing to enroll in remote learning for the fall.** Parents should be sure to fill out the form completely for each school aged child in their household. **The form must be completed no later than August 7, 2020 in order for the student to be enrolled in the Huron Remote Learning Program for the fall of 2020-2021.** The form is available on the district website, and the link is being emailed to parents and posted on social media. The link can be accessed at <http://huronschools.org/remotetelearningenrollment> Parents can also call the district offices at 734-782-2441 in order to request directions on how to access the form.

Masks:

The Governor's executive order, E.O. 2020-142, and accompanying MI Safe Schools Return to School Roadmap requires that face coverings be worn by all staff members, except during meals. In Phase 4 of the Governor's Roadmap, facial coverings must be worn by all students, staff, and bus drivers during school transportation. In addition, facial coverings must be worn by all students in the hallways and common areas, except during meals. Students in grades 6-12 must also wear facial coverings in all classrooms. All students in grades K-5 are not "required" to wear facial coverings in classrooms as long as the students remain with their class throughout the school day and do not come into close contact with another class of students (otherwise known as cohorting). The Huron School District is working to provide the safest possible atmosphere for students, as we weigh the ability of our younger students to tolerate PPE for a full school day. We have purchased facial coverings for all of our students in the district, and we have purchased special "gaiter" style face coverings for our K-5 students. The "gaiter" coverings are different from masks, easier to wear, with more room for students to breathe. Our initial plans will be to "cohort" our elementary aged students in classrooms. If we are successful, K-5 students would not be "required" to wear face coverings in classrooms; however, we will encourage students to wear them for maximum safety.

Social Distancing:

While six feet of social distancing is strongly recommended, and preferred, it will not be possible in every Huron School District classroom and hallway. Our operations department is working with building administration to creatively maximize space within classrooms to allow for maximum social distancing and spacing.

Transportation:

Although we expect participation in the district provided transportation to be less than normal, we will be providing transportation to district resident students. Students and staff will be required to wear face coverings when riding the bus. Cleaning protocols for our buses may have an impact on bus stop times; if choosing to utilize HSD transportation, please check bus stop times carefully (when available) as they are likely to change from what they were in the past.

Cleaning and Hygiene Protocols:

The MI Safe Schools Return to School Roadmap requires schools to clean frequently touched surfaces, including light switches, doors, benches, and bathrooms at least every four hours, using an EPA-approved disinfectant or diluted bleach solution. In addition, student desks must be wiped down with an EPA-approved disinfectant or diluted bleach solution after every class period. Also, playground structures must undergo normal routine cleaning each day, and school buses must be cleaned before and after every transit route. The Huron School District is working with custodial staff, teachers, and transportation staff in order to plan regular cleaning schedules, cleaning logs, and cleaning protocols for all school buildings and transportation vehicles.

In addition to this letter, I have sent parents and guardians the Huron School District 2020-2021 Return to Learn Planning Framework graphic and the Huron School District Return to Learning FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) document. This Return to Learn Framework includes reference information on face-to-face learning, remote learning, and district protocols. The Frequently Asked Questions document includes questions pertaining to the MI Safe Start Plan, the basic design of face-to-face learning, lunch time, recess, lockers & cubbies, sanitation stations & cleaning protocols, transportation, masks & facial coverings, medical exemptions, online enrollment options, and student health screenings. Please take a look at these documents, and feel free to contact me if you have questions.

Thank you for your patience, understanding, and support as we work through this challenging situation. Enjoy the rest of the summer. We will keep you posted with more information as it becomes available.

Sincerely,



Donovan Rowe
Superintendent of Schools
Huron School District