



July 31st, 2020

Greetings Cadet Staff and Community Members,

Yesterday Governor Kim Reynolds provided another update for schools working through our Return to Learn plans. The State Department of Education also released some valuable guidance to help us decide which learning model is appropriate. This information will be reviewed at the end of this communication, as there are a few other talking points that we wanted to share before this information was released.

Learning Model to Start the Year - Official Announcement

The Administrative Team has met with various school personnel, and we have not changed our recommendation to start the year. Although we had earlier stated we would wait until the first week of August to announce our plan, we are making this our official announcement on how we are going to start the school year. Our plan is to enroll family units based on the last name of the oldest student enrolled. If students in your household are scheduled to attend on different days, please contact your building secretary, counselor or principal.

- Week of August 24th
 - Monday, August 24th - No Students, Teacher Inservice
 - Tuesday, August 25th & Wednesday, August 26th
 - Alden - last names A-H
 - Iowa Falls - last names A-K
 - Thursday, August 27th & Friday, August 28th
 - Alden - last names I-Z
 - Iowa Falls - last names L-Z
- Week of August 31st
 - Monday, August 31st - No Students, Teacher Inservice
 - Tuesday, September 1st & Wednesday, September 2nd
 - Alden - Last Names A-H
 - Iowa Falls - last names A-K
 - Thursday, September 3rd & Friday, September 4th
 - Alden - last names I-Z
 - Iowa Falls - last names L-Z
- Week of September 7th
 - Monday, September 7th - No School, Labor Day
 - Tuesday September 8th thru Friday, September 11th - All Students

Possible Changes to Hybrid Learning Model

We are still looking for feedback on possible Hybrid Learning Models. The original learning model did not meet the requirements communicated on July 17th. This survey will need to be completed by Friday, August 7th. Here is a link to the survey:

<https://forms.gle/UMSc8xxZB8hSqAnn7>



Individualized Remote/Distance Learning Options

Governor Kim Reynolds' Proclamation and SF 2310 sets clear expectations for schools and families, in regards to remote/distance learning. While the school district will not be able to unilaterally switch to this type of learning model, individual families may opt to participate in the distance learning model if there is a health concern for the student, immediate family member of the student (in the house), or caretaker of the student. If you are interested in this type of option, please contact your building principal or school counselor.

Here is a brief overview of our options:

- Elementary Level (minimum one-month commitment)
 - Option #1 - District Developed Coursework
 - "Live Log In" for Morning Meeting (not required)
 - Recorded lessons for ELA and Math
 - Focus on Whole Group instruction
 - Focus on Skill-Based instruction
 - Supplemental Instructional Resources
 - Assignments to complete in a timely manner
 - All work must be completed at an acceptable level
 - Option #2 - Third-Party Created Courses (Edmentum or Edgenuity)
 - Self-Paced (One Course at a Time or Multiple Classes)
 - ALL CONTENT and Guidance provided by Software Company
 - Focus on the core classes
 - All work must be completed with 80% accuracy
- Secondary Level (9-week minimum commitment)
 - Option #1 - District Developed Coursework
 - All students in the same Grade Level will be grouped together
 - Students will be required to log in live for multiple classes each day (emphasis on the core classes - some electives will not be available)
 - Assignments completed in same time frame of in-person courses
 - All work must be completed at an acceptable level
 - Option #2 - Third-Party Created Courses (Edmentum or Edgenuity)
 - Self-Paced (One Course at a Time or Multiple Classes)
 - ALL CONTENT and Guidance provided by Software Company
 - Focus on the core classes
 - All work must be completed with 80% accuracy

If a student/family elects to try the third-party option, we will allow students to trial out the program for 2 weeks of school. After two weeks, the student will commit to completing the remote/distance learning model for the entire learning cycle (12 weeks at Elementary Level, 9 weeks at Secondary Level).



School Registration

Online school registration will be available starting August 10th. We have had a few technical issues in our changeover, and we are working to get this system up and running as soon as possible.

One question, that is new this year, will focus on your internet access at home. This will be important information for us moving forward if we need to move into a Remote/Distance or Hybrid learning model.

Another question will not be new, but your answer will be important. Given the possible health concerns that this school year brings, we will need a list of contacts (or emergency contacts) that would be available to pick up your student within 30 minutes if they are exhibiting symptoms that warrant being sent home.

Substitute Shortage/New Rules

The Governor's proclamation has changed the requirements for substitute teachers for the 2020-2021 school year. The new rules allow for anyone to sub in our building as long as they meet the following requirements:

- Completion of a Substitute Authorization Course or valid Teaching License
- AA Degree, BA Degree or 60 hours of post-secondary
- Be at least 20 years of age
- No limit to number of days you can substitute

The Substitute Authorization class is now available completely online. This is a short course that would allow anyone who meets the other requirements to work as a sub in any of our buildings. Most years we already are very short on substitute teachers...this year will significantly limit our sub pool. If you are interested in taking this course and helping us out, please contact a building secretary, principal or myself. For your reference, both districts pay over \$100 for each day of subbing.

Determining Return to Learn Model

Guidance released yesterday provided schools a system to help determine which learning model is appropriate, based on the percent of positive tests in the county. For our districts, we will utilize the information from Hardin County. We have already created a spreadsheet to help us track this data and will meet at least weekly to review the data. Here is a brief overview of the guidance:

- 0-5% Positivity average over previous 14 days
 - Practice Safety Protocols
 - Practice Mitigation Efforts
 - On-Site Learning following Guidance
 - Hybrid Model based on:
 - Parent/Guardian Preference
 - Student Quarantine



- 6-14% Positivity average over previous 14 days
 - Limit inter-school interactions
 - Limit contact beyond student cohorts as feasible
 - On-Site Learning following Guidance
 - Hybrid Model based on:
 - Parent/Guardian Preference
 - Student Quarantine
- 15-20% Positivity average over previous 14 days AND 10% absenteeism from students
 - Cancel School Events/Gatherings
 - Close Communal Spaces
 - Hybrid Model based on:
 - Parent/Guardian Preference
 - Student Quarantine
 - Temporary Remote/Distance Learning for up to 14 days
 - Required Contact with Local Public Health
 - Requires Approval from Department of Education and State Department of Public Health
- Greater than 20% Positivity average over previous 14 days with healthcare resource capacity concerns
 - Work with State and Local education and public health officials to make decisions based on school operations
 - Temporary Remote/Distance Learning for up to 14 days
 - Required Contact with Local Public Health
 - Requires Approval from Department of Education and State Department of Public Health

Evaluating Sick Students/Staff

Guidance was released providing a list of High Risk and Low Risk Symptoms. If a student or staff member is exhibiting **any** high risk or **two or more** low risk symptoms, we are asking you to stay home and advising you to consult with a health care provider. If a student or staff member starts exhibiting **any** high risk or **two or more** low risk symptoms, we will most likely send them home. This is why it will be important to have an emergency contact who can pick up a student within 30 minutes. Here is the list of the symptoms:

- High Risk Symptoms (stay home if showing **any** of these)
 - New cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - New loss of taste
 - New loss of smell



- Low Risk Symptoms (stay home if showing **two or more** of these)
 - Fever
 - Headache
 - Muscle/body aches
 - Fatigue
 - Sore Throat
 - Runny Nose
 - Congestion
 - Nausea
 - Vomiting
 - Diarrhea

While we are very aware that many of these symptoms could be exhibited and not related to COVID19, we are going to err on the side of caution and ask people to stay home/send people home. We will also go through this list of symptoms with parents whenever a student is called in sick. We will use this information to help us track possible exposures/outbreaks.

There was also guidance released to help us determine which students/staff members will be asked to quarantine/isolate based on exposure to a positive COVID-19 test. This information will be shared in next week's communication.

Thank you

Thank you once again for reading through this rather lengthy communication and your patience as we approach the start of the school year. Even though we have made our official decision on the model to start the year, we will continue to monitor the spread of the virus and provide weekly updates on various aspects of the 2020-21 school year.

As always, thank you for your continued support and stay safe.