



Clare Public Schools

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Return to Learning, Fall 2020

MORE Frequently Asked Questions (& Answers)

Please note that these guidelines continue to develop, and can change based on Executive Orders & Health Department Restrictions.

If we are moved to Phase 3 and return to remote learning (in-person students), what can we expect as far as lessons for our students?

- A minimum of two “live” lessons per week.
- Additional video or recorded lessons each week.
- Most teaching lessons will not exceed 15 minutes in length...this is research based best practice for online learners.
- Students will receive timely feedback on their work.
- Traditional grades are expected at this time, but grades remain an item of discussion in our district.
- Time expectations will vary by students’ tenacity and ability, but generally would be expected to be around one-half the traditional school day or more, daily.

What will drop off/pick up look like at school this year?

- The process will be similar to other years, however, parents will not be able to walk students into the building, with *RARE, pre-approved* exceptions.
- Masks should be worn while waiting to enter the building.
- Students will be permitted to enter the buildings at 7:50 a.m. and proceed directly to their homeroom/1st hour class, unless directed otherwise by the principal.
- After school, CPS has often been a safe place for students to “hang out” with friends, specifically at CHS. For the immediate time being due to new cleaning protocols, students must be out of the building by 3:30 p.m.

Why isn't CPS conducting temperature checks daily? Why are parents screening students?

- Guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Central Michigan Health Department, and school attorneys advises against the district conducting temperature screenings on students each day.
- We review guidance weekly with the health department and our attorneys.
- Each student will receive a refrigerator magnet on the first day of school with daily screening guidelines for families and we will update families as new information is received.

Will middle & high school students still switch classes?

- Yes. At this time, we anticipate a traditional schedule for our students.
- Cohorting (same students in same class groupings each day) is still a possibility.

What will lunches look like this year?

- Due to virtual school enrollment, lunches will have less students, but remain on a traditional schedule.
- Students, at times, may be eating in classrooms.
- Students will still have meal choices, though they will be packaged as “grab and go” items.
- Lunches from home are still welcome.
- No food deliveries from outside entities will be permitted during the day.

How will parents be notified if there is a positive case at school?

- Parents will be notified individually (family) of positive cases if your child(ren) is identified as a close contact, in coordination with our Health Department.
- If we experience multiple cases at once, our all-call system may be used.
- In no event will individual student information (names) be used with regard to positive cases or close contacts.
- We are required to and responsible for coordinating with our Health Department on positive cases and close contacts.

Where is COVID testing available?

- MidMichigan Urgent Care, just west of downtown Clare
- Call your primary care physician
- Call 2-1-1 if you do not have a primary care physician

Will K-4 students be required to wear masks in the classroom?

- Masks are not required for elementary students unless they co-mingle with other classes for an extended period of time (15 minutes).
- Parents are encouraged to ask their children to follow the model of the teacher.

Will CPS provide face coverings?

- Masks (washable cloth) have been purchased for all students and staff. Disposable masks will also be used if needed. Students and staff may also provide their own face coverings if desired (inappropriate messaging/images not permitted...Bacon messaging is almost always appropriate)

Can students/staff refuse to wear a face covering and/or have a medical exemption?

- When students/staff are in school participating in face to face instruction, compliance with the Governor's Executive Order regarding face coverings is required.
- Medical exemptions (Doctor's Note) will be honored for masks for students or staff.
- Our emphasis will be on teaching, reteaching, empathy, and caring for each other as Pioneers.
- Please note that we have students, staff members, and family members who may have certain vulnerabilities...this is an opportunity to look out for others and be a good neighbor.
- Face shields do NOT replace the mask/face covering requirement.

When can students and staff have a break from wearing a face covering?

- CPS will work to schedule "mask breaks" outdoors.

Will visitors be allowed at school?

- CPS will not allow visitors at this time. Parents will be asked to call and set up an appointment.

Will Special Needs students continue to receive services (OT/PT/Speech, etc.)

- Yes. Special Needs students will continue to receive services related to their IEP plans.

What will transportation look like this year?

- Parents will be required to screen their child for symptoms each morning prior to being transported on the bus. Sending your student to the bus stop is acknowledgement that they are symptom free.
- All bus drivers and students will be required to wear masks (medical exemptions honored).
- Windows will be open when feasible and over 50 degrees Fahrenheit to optimize ventilation.
- Students will be assigned seating, and seated with their families when applicable.

What will happen if we are moved to Phase 3 before school starts?

- All students will be issued a device as a means to provide a more robust remote-learning model.
- Paper instructional packets will be available on food distribution days, if required.

Will student support services (counseling/social work) be offered this year?

- Yes. CPS retains our three school counselors and our social worker. Additionally, the Clare-Gladwin RESD supports our social-emotional education efforts with our students as their schedules permit.

CPS Virtual Learning Questions/Answers:

Virtual learning involves students interacting with video/audio lessons and completing follow-up assignments. Students will have access to a certified teacher at designated times each day for learning support. Grades are earned based on achievement in the Edmentum program, or in some cases with CPS provided virtual lessons/courses.

I registered my child for virtual school and he/she has an IEP. Will he still receive support?

- CPS Special Education staff will need to conduct IEP meetings involving each student who registered for virtual school within the first few days of school. Our teachers are already planning to this end. Support for special education students will NOT look the same as in-person instruction. Some services may not be possible.
- We expect more guidance in the next week from the Department of Education on this topic.

Will the district provide wifi/internet access and support for virtual students?

- No. Internet access is the responsibility of the family.

What are the time expectations for virtual school?

- Virtual classes within the Edmentum system offer the advantage of self-pacing. However, our experience is that regular, routine expectations lead to a much greater rate of success.
- CPS Virtual teachers will only have availability at prescribed times, yet to be determined.
- The time required for assignment/course completion depends on the tenacity and ability of each student.
- Virtual classes taught entirely by CPS teachers will be constrained to the teacher schedule, still being determined but within the school day hours.

How do performing arts classes or “shop” classes work for virtual students?

- Virtual students will not have access to Band or Drama courses. There may be some “music” or other arts options available. We are still working on schedules.
- Virtual students will not have the option for classes offered in our shop.

Will grades be issued in the CPS Virtual School?

- Yes. Grades will be issued just as they are for in-person school.

Will online courses offered virtually match current CPS courses.

- In most cases, yes.

Will virtual students be allowed to participate with in-person classes?

- Students will not be allowed to physically attend in-person classes. However, there may be opportunities to interact virtually with in-person classes and instructors. This process remains under development.

What about PSAT/SAT tests for virtual students?

- Currently, these tests are required to be taken in the school setting.

How often will contact occur between virtual students and teachers?

- We expect a minimum of twice weekly contact between teacher and students, higher than required by the State of Michigan. Students who need additional help will be able to schedule time with a teacher each week.

If we start the year with virtual school, but the District's face to face instruction shuts down, can students switch at that time?

- No. Semester Long Commitment is required.

Can CPS Virtual students participate in extracurricular activities and sports?

- Yes. For the 2020-2021 school year, CPS Virtual students will be permitted to participate in these activities and represent Clare Public Schools. Students will be subject to all rules and eligibility guidelines in the student handbook.

If my child participates in CPS Virtual School, do they remain a Clare Public Schools student?

- Yes. You are simply choosing an alternate mode of instruction for the semester or year.

MISCELLANEOUS QUESTIONS/ANSWERS

Will Open Houses and Parent/Teacher Conferences be held?

- We expect to hold these events virtually while we remain in Phase 4.

Will Kindergarten Boot Camp occur this year?

- We expect to hold Kindergarten Boot Camp IN-PERSON this August.

What is CPS doing to ensure the social/emotional well-being of students this fall?

- CPS will begin a survey on this topic in mid-August, and create our plans based on feedback from the survey. CPS employs three school counselors and one social worker, and we partner with the RESD for additional support. The staff has also received a variety of trainings to help them assist students & families. Moreover, our staff works hard to embed social/emotional skills into their daily teaching & interactions with students and families.

These are uncertain times, but who better to work through the next few months with than each other as Clare Pioneers? If you have fears for your child, your family, your teachers, or community...you're not alone. I suspect we'll be working through all of them - together. The plan we move forward with won't be normal. Current circumstances are unusual and thus we are working on a unique response. The best news is: Clare Public Schools is full of people who love your kids and want to make learning safely happen.

I am not a health expert. I will not have all the answers either. But it won't be for lack of doing our very best to give families choices and information. What you see here is what we know TODAY...July 31, 2020.

The Board of Education has reviewed and approved our entire plan at their regular meeting on Monday, August 10, 2020. The full plan is found on our website.

Please continue to follow our Clare Public Schools Facebook page, our website (www.clare.k12.mi.us), and expect to receive occasional updates via our phone messaging system.

It remains our goal to make the 2020-2021 school year your best year ever!

--- Jim Walter II, Superintendent