



## Clare Public Schools

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## Return to Learning, Fall 2020

### Frequently Asked Questions (& Answers) Regarding Back to School

*Please note that these are also DRAFT in form, and can change based on Executive Orders & Health Department Restrictions.*

What instruction models will CPS offer to students and parents in 2020-2021 if Clare remains in Phase 4:

- All day, Every day, Every student face to face instruction model (Traditional)
- CPS Virtual Instruction Model
  - All instruction will be completed remotely. We are actively working to utilize Clare Public Schools teachers with Google Classroom and Edmentum online courses, dependent on demand and teacher interest. Courses will pivot heavily to Edmentum with a Michigan certified teacher if we are unable to use CPS teachers. All courses will rely on state and national standards.
- Important Note: **SEMESTER-LONG COMMITMENT**
  - Whether your family chooses traditional instruction or virtual instruction, the delivery of instruction choice will be a **SEMESTER-LONG COMMITMENT** for your child.
- What about students with Special Needs and students with IEPs?
  - We will work closely with families to determine procedures and placements, and this work will need to happen on an individual basis.

If we have to transition from in-school face to face instruction to remote learning, will it be different from last spring?

- Yes. CPS learned a great deal from our work this spring, and your feedback has also informed our plans. All teachers will utilize Google Classroom, and instruction will be much more robust. A minimum of two “live” lessons will be taught each week, with additional learning videos. During a school closure, our focus *may* shift to core classes. Teachers spent a significant portion of their summer training and planning for this circumstance.
- Requirements for virtual learning participation, rigor and grading will be the same as in-school learning.
- If we transition to remote learning, attendance/participation, rigor and grading will have significantly higher expectations than this spring’s transition.

How will children and staff keep up with instruction if quarantined for a number of days?

- The CPS plan is to continue to provide instruction remotely if a teacher, student, or classroom is quarantined *but* feeling well enough to participate. Each individual situation will require its own solution.

Will students and staff who have a fever of 100.4 or higher be restricted from school activities?

- Yes. Students/Staff will be required to be symptom-free with their temperature below 100.4 for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications before returning to school activities.

What will social/physical distancing in classrooms look like?

- Possibly smaller class sizes (due to some families choosing virtual learning)
- Grades K-4 students encouraged to wear masks
- Grades 5-12 students required to wear a mask.
- Staff members required to wear masks.
  - Medical exemptions for students and staff (documentation required) will be honored.
- Student seating will often be assigned, facing one direction, and spaced as far apart as possible.

What will social/physical distancing in hallways and other spaces look like?

- Students will be sent directly to their classrooms when school is opened (restricted locker use).
- Passing time will be staggered when possible. Students will be released in the afternoon by classroom/grade level to ease congestion.
- Bathrooms will post a capacity limit.
- Transition times will still be supervised by adults to the best of our ability.
- Elementary Art and Music teachers will go to students' classrooms in most cases.

Will elementary students participate in recess?

- Yes. The playgrounds will be open, though the schedule will be staggered. Masks will be *encouraged*.

What will PE, Athletics, and Band look like this year?

- PE and Band will meet outside as much as is possible.
- It is highly likely that locker rooms will not be available.
- Band classes *may* transition to music theory, music history, music appreciation or other at times throughout the year.
- At this time, MHSAA plans to proceed with fall athletics. CPS will follow NFHS and MHSAA guidelines.

What is the procedure/length of quarantine if a student/staff member tests positive for COVID-19?

- If an individual has a positive test with symptoms, return to school is allowed after at least ten (10) days since symptoms first appeared AND at least 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication AND symptoms have improved, ***per current Health Department restrictions***.
- If there was a positive test with no symptoms, return to school is allowed after ten days have passed since the test (assuming no symptoms appeared during that time).

- Healthcare providers may require a longer time period. The District will review each individual case and communicate with the student/staff member.

What is the procedure if a student/staff member shows signs of being sick while at school? The student/staff member -

- Will be moved to a quarantine room and sent home as soon as possible.
- Will be encouraged to have a COVID-19 test.
- Cannot return to school until a negative test or is 24-hours symptom free without the use of fever-reducing medications.
- Someone in direct contact with a positive-tested individual must be quarantined for 14 days **per current Health Department restrictions**, or is able to produce a negative test.
- Someone who interacts with a person who has been contact-traced is not excluded or required to test (removed from direct contact).

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

How will disinfecting and sanitizing be adjusted for COVID?

- CPS utilizes machines that produce a fog/mist fluid and eliminates COVID particles within seconds.
- Hand washing stations or hand sanitizer will be located in every classroom. Students will receive instruction with best practices. Hand washing/sanitizing will be regularly scheduled.
- Cleaning desks will occur on a regular basis in grades K-12. All desk surfaces will be cleaned by custodial staff each evening.
- Water fountains will be disabled, but water filling stations will be available.
- Buses will be sanitized after each run.

How will health screens occur?

- Employees will provide daily health screenings at home prior to arrival at school.
- All parents will be requested to perform health screenings daily on their child(ren).
- Temperature screening may occur at the school.

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.

How will students be served breakfast and lunch during Phase 4?

- Breakfast will be served in classrooms.
- Lunch will be served in classrooms and cafeterias. Administrators will work on a rotating schedule for classes.
- Meals will be a "grab and go" style offering, but still with some choice. Chartwells is purchasing software that will allow students to choose meals easily each morning, or even to choose by the week.
- Virtual students who receive free/reduced meals will be required to pick up these meals at a location yet to be determined.

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.

Will student clubs and activities be allowed?

- At this time, we intend to allow clubs and activities during Phase 4, but will encourage meeting virtually when feasible.

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.

Will lockers be utilized?

- No, with exceptions as provided by the building Principal.

## **CPS Virtual Learning Questions/Answers:**

What is the link to register my child for CPS Virtual School?

- <https://forms.gle/zvj98BMPn92nbEGY8>

Is there a deadline to enroll in the CPS Virtual School?

- Yes. CPS will develop schedules based on enrollment as of Sunday, August 16th. Students not enrolled by noon on 8.11.2020 will jeopardize their participation.

When is my CPS Virtual School decision final?

- Tuesday, August 11th. Registration will be closed and final. At that point, we must make staffing decisions that cannot be changed until the semester ends. There is no guarantee after staffing that there will be room to switch between models. Switching models will be permitted at semester break.

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.

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 will be asked to review our entire plan and approve at their regular meeting on Monday, August 10, 2020.*

*Please continue to follow our Clare Public Schools Facebook page, our website ([www.clare.k12.mi.us](http://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*