



Clare Public Schools

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Return to School Road Map Update (released July 27, 2020)

Update/Draft only, official plan is still under development

Full-week schedule: Clare Public Schools will offer families two learning options for the 2020-2021 school year; in-person instruction (so long as our region remains in phase 4 or better) or enrollment in a CPS virtual school program.

We expect to follow a regular, full-day, Monday-Friday schedule in person. There is no part-time schedule offered at this time.

We will offer an online option for parents who wish to forgo the in-person education at this time. Students/Families choosing the online option **will commit for a semester at a time**. Online learners will have access to a Michigan certified teacher, and depending on the number of families choosing this option, the teacher may be a Clare Public Schools teacher.

The online/virtual (100%) option can be excellent for students if they have strong parent support and are:

- Self-motivated
- An Independent Learner
- Computer Literate
- Technologically Prepared
- A Good Time Manager
- An Effective Communicator
- Academically Ready for Content
- And are Committed to Success.

The virtual option may also be appropriate for those with health barriers to in person instruction.

Families who select the online/virtual option provide the home support (a teacher supports content within the curriculum) needed to guide their children through the education process. Younger school-age students require significantly more support. Early elementary students focus deeply on learning foundational skills. As students mature, less direct parent guidance should be required to be successful if the student possesses independent study skills and strong time management skills. Virtual/Online Students take all classes online/at home and only come to campus for scheduled/approved activities.

For the 2020-2021 school year, students choosing the online/virtual option will be permitted to participate in athletics and extracurricular activities representing Clare.

Transportation: We expect buses to run their regular routes each day. Drivers will wear masks, disinfect each bus twice daily, and assign seats for the 20-21 school year. In the event drivers are ill or symptomatic, they will not drive their route. It IS POSSIBLE that we could have canceled routes at some point during this year as there is a local, regional, and national bus driver shortage. Please make alternate plans in advance. Students are required and expected to wear masks on the bus (documented medical exemptions will be observed).

Education on Hygiene: Students & staff will receive training with guidance from the Health Department and school nurse about proper handwashing, physical distancing where possible, virus spread, and risk mitigation.

Masks are required in phase 4 for grades 5-12, and for grades K-4 when students are mixing or moving throughout the building, with a handful of exceptions. CPS will honor medical exemptions for masks, emphasize teaching & empathy, and work to protect the health & safety of everyone in our district. We will also work to schedule “mask breaks” during our day. The district has ordered a supply of paper and cloth masks for students and staff. Those refusing to comply (after redirection and reteaching, contact with families) may be shifted to online learning until able to participate in person wearing masks as required. *Again, our emphasis will be on following the spirit of the rules, teaching and reteaching, empathy, and treating each other with respect as human beings.*

Cleaning: CPS implements reliable cleaning protocols for everyone’s safety and to mitigate health risks. All cleaning products, protocols, and procedures meet or exceed industry standards set forth by governmental health organizations...and they apply to classrooms, offices, athletic facilities, food preparation areas, common areas, and hard surfaces in every CPS building/facility. In addition, Auxilio (our transportation provider) meets all industry standards as well for our transportation vehicles and facilities. All learning environments have been deep cleaned this summer.

Spacing & Movement: Work stations, students, and teachers will be spaced as far apart as is possible and reasonable. In many cases, seating will all face the same direction. Considering all our district’s resources (funds, facilities, teachers, & students), we expect most classrooms to look very similar to a regular school year. Depending on the number of families who choose a virtual school option, there could be a reduced number of students in our buildings for the 2020-2021 school year.

Potential shifts to online/remote learning: A resurgence of Covid-19 or government order may require schools to temporarily halt in-person learning and shift to remote learning. Our district expects to be fully 1:1 in the early fall (every student having access to a device); staff have received training this spring and summer (and will continue to receive support); and these will ensure that any pause to in-person learning and shift to remote learning can happen quickly and efficiently. We learned a great deal this spring, and remote learning during the 2020-2021 school year will be more rigorous and powerful than our measures implemented this spring.

We will continue to update you as our plans “finalize” for the coming school year in Clare. This is a **DRAFT SUMMARY**, and we know there are many details you have questions about. Our full plan will be released no later than Tuesday, August 11th, following Board approval.