



August 31, 2020

Dear Center Cass Parents and Guardians –

Thank you for completing the survey. You may view the results at www.ccsd66.org.

From the onset, when making decisions, we have used district, parent, employee, county, local, and school data. Parent survey data suggests that parents and students are pleased with their remote schooling experience and in person schooling experience thus far, are adapting to health department guidelines, and are ready for a longer school day.

Through data collected and conversations with employees, they, too, see students adjusting to their remote or in person selection; report students are happy; and a majority are ready for an extended school day. Our employees see students struggle with the social distancing, mask wearing, and hand washing, but see progress with each passing day. Our employees in the primary building also report the difficulty maintaining 6 feet of distance with our neediest learners, but are working toward helping primary learners develop greater independence.

As stated in last week's update, we will continue half days through Tuesday, September 8. Upon Board approval, **we will begin our extended day schedule on Wednesday, September 9**. The purpose of the extended day schedule is to maximize the amount of time we have in the morning with our students, send students home between 11:30 -12:45 so they can eat lunch in their own homes, and provide an afternoon remote session for all students. Principals will share more details in their communications. Below is a summary of the proposed extended day schedule. The schedule is the same for students who have selected in-person or remote learning.

Elizabeth Ide PK/ECE AM 3-year-old students learn in person or remotely from 7:30 - 9:30
Elizabeth Ide PK/ECE PM 4-year-old students learn in person or remotely from 9:55 - 11:55

Elizabeth Ide AM Kindergarten students learn in person or remotely from 7:30 - 10:10
Elizabeth Ide PM Kindergarten students learn in person or remotely from 10:50 - 1:30

Elizabeth Ide First and Second Graders learn in person or remotely from 7:30 - 11:30
All Elizabeth Ide First and Second Graders learn again remotely from 12:45 - 2:15

Prairieview students learn in person or remotely from 8:30 - 12:00
All Prairieview students learn again remotely from 1:00 - 3:00

Lakeview students learn in person or remotely from 8:00 - 12:40
All Lakeview students learn again remotely from 1:35 - 2:20

Due to social distancing guidelines for buses, the staggered start and dismissal times vary by 30-40 minutes per building. Route times reflecting the adjusted individual school bell times will be revised accordingly and sent prior to the weekend before the change. Students being transported by bus will continue to be transported by bus. Students needing a take home lunch will continue to be provided one. Lakeview will have the longest in-person day, making it possible to run their full core schedule. Each school schedule reflects approximately 5.5 instructional hours, the same as the full day schedule proposed in the Return to Learn plan. The schedule above can also be used should the District need to move full remote. In that case, teachers will continue instruction via the schedule, and all students would be learning from home. The extended day plan also features an afternoon remote session for all students Grades 1-8, which familiarizes all students with a remote model, should we need to move full remote.



Although Center Cass survey data regarding school operations is very good, and we have yet to have a confirmed COVID-19 case, DuPage County is approaching the “Substantial Community Transmission” as defined by DCHD in the document linked below, furthermore, asking schools to **consider** moving all students to a remote model. DCHD takes a more conservative approach to public safety than IDPH, meaning IDPH might assess DuPage County as Blue <http://dph.illinois.gov/countyschool?county=DuPage>, (overall meeting standards), while DuPage might assess themselves as Red (overall not meeting standards), <https://www.dupagehealth.org/DocumentCenter/View/3541/COVID-19-Return-to-School-Framework-8-28>, as DuPage County holds itself to a higher standard than IDPH.

Question: So, which metric should schools follow, IDPH or DCHD?

Answer: Center Cass 66 will look at IDPH, DCHD, Local (Darien/Woodridge/Downers), and School (Cases at School, Sick Kids/Adults, Ability to Staff) metrics in making the decision on when to move to a full remote model.

Question: How quickly will D66 move to a full remote model should all data indicate we move remote?

Answer: Depends. County data on the IDPH website is updated each Saturday and reflects the previous weeks confirmed cases. I meet with the DCHD every Monday to review data released over the weekend. I will continue to send a parent communication on Monday or Tuesday of each week with the latest information. Below is a **hypothetical** example of how we **might** move to remote if necessary:

- *Saturday, September 12th – IDPH & DCHD releases DuPage data showing the County has exceeded thresholds based on data from 8/30/2020 through 9/05/2020.*
- *Monday, September 14th – Dr. Wise reviews IDPH, DuPage, Local, and School metrics with DCHD.*
- *Tuesday, September 15th – Dr. Wise sends parent letter informing parents that if County, Local, and School metrics don’t improve by the next IDPH release, we would take an Adaptive Pause, moving to a remote model in 8 school days, Monday, September 28th. This gives parents time to arrange childcare and schools to shift full remote.*
- *Saturday, September 19th – IDPH & DCHD releases DuPage data showing the County has exceeded thresholds based on data from 9/06/2020 through 9/13/2020.*
- *Monday, September 21th – Dr. Wise reviews IDPH, DuPage, Local, and School metrics with DCHD.*
- *Tuesday, September 22nd – Parent communication is sent stating improvement did not occur and school will be remote starting on Monday, September 28th.*
- *Saturday, September 26th – IDPH & DCHD releases DuPage data.*
- *Monday, September 28th - Full Remote Begins and Resumes until improvement occurs.*

**In this scenario, if DuPage turns Red on September 12th, and DuPage, Local, and School numbers improve two weeks in a row, the County will move back to Orange, and in-person instruction can continue*

If numbers increase within D66, we can move to remote quickly if necessary. I know the COVID-19 discussions can be overwhelming. We will continue to provide the safest and most conducive learning environment for your child, in-person and remotely. We will comply with IDPH regulations and work through any COVID-19 cases should we receive them. Please heed travel warnings and be careful over Labor Day weekend. I want to commend you, our students, and our employees for their dedication, flexibility, and courage. For now, we will continue our half day model through September 8, and then with Board approval, begin our extended day model on September 9 with lunch at home for students. Feel free to contact me or your building Principal should you have questions.

Educationally Yours – Dr. Wise