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Dear Students and Parents:

As August 13 is the first day for students of the 2020-2021 school year, below are the details regarding the scheduling options, safety protocols and the choices for families.

The Illinois State Board of Education (I.S.B.E.) and Illinois Department of Health (I.D.P.H) guidance for the upcoming schools stipulates these main required guidelines for Illinois public schools while in Phase 4 and delivering any form of in-person instruction: (1) require use of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including masks as face coverings; (2) prohibit more than 50 individuals from gathering in one space; (3) require social distancing be observed, as much as possible; (4) require that schools conduct symptom screenings and temperature checks or require that individuals self-certify that they are free of symptoms before entering school buildings; and (5) require an increase in schoolwide cleaning and disinfection. These regulations are to be used when a region of the state is in Phase 4 for in-person instruction to occur. At the time of this communication, our region is in Phase 4. This indicates that a *Hybrid Scenario* (see below) is possible. However, we are still five weeks from the start of school, and the health status of our region could change.

The three learning scenarios that may occur at any point during the school year include:

- *Remote Scenario*: No students physically present in school.
- *Hybrid Scenario*: 50% of the students physically attend school for a week, while 50% of students attend school remotely for a week. Each student group, representing 50%, rotates weekly between remote attendance to class from home and physical attendance.
- *Traditional Scenario*: All students attend class according to the typical course schedule.

Attached is an [info-sheet summary](#) of these options with comparison bell schedules. Both the *Remote Scenario* and *Hybrid Scenario* are based on an A-Day/B-Day rotation with identical bell schedules. Considering that a traditional schedule includes up to 8 courses, the A-Day represents blocks 1A-4A and the B-Day represents blocks 1B-4B. In both the *Remote Scenario* and *Hybrid Scenario*, the student participates in four classes a day in an every-other-day pattern.

There is a distinct possibility that no matter which scenario we begin the year with, we may shift back and forth between the scenarios depending on the health status

of our region. The identical bell schedule and every-other-day commonality between the *Remote Scenario* and *Hybrid Scenario* allows a school to shift from one scenario to the other and back again without a major mindset shift needed from students or staff in terms of the length of a class each day, how the courses are approached and the time of day commitment.

As educators, our best work is done when we are consistently face-to-face with all of our students. When that is not possible, our staff will provide connections in creative and unique formats given the circumstances.

In the *Remote Scenario*, students are online from home every school day for four, one-hour class periods (see attachment for details) and a 15-minute break between periods. Teachers will take attendance at the beginning of each class and students are expected to remain engaged during the duration of the class. Students are still responsible for completing homework in a timely manner. For the typical homework assignment, the assignment will be due the following class. Because the schedule is an alternating A-Day/B-Day schedule, it benefits the student to complete their homework that afternoon or evening. Teachers will have posted office hours in the afternoon for students to schedule a small group tutoring session. Athletics and activities would most likely be held via remote meetings, etc.

In the *Hybrid Scenario*, students follow the same bell schedule and A-Day/B-Day rotation as the *Remote Scenario*, but during one week, a student is physically in class, while the next week the student is connecting to the class remotely and the other half of the class is physically in class. Bus runs will occur in the morning to take students to school who are scheduled to learn in-person for the week. During this scenario, parents may choose on any day to keep their child at home and not send their child physically to class when it is the student's week to attend. If that is the case, the student simply connects to the class remotely in the same manner done the week prior. Teachers will take attendance at the beginning of each class for students in-person and students connecting from home. Students are expected to remain engaged during the duration of the class whether they are in-person or connecting from home to the class. Teachers will be able to be seen and heard by students learning from home. As with the *Remote Scenario*, a typical homework assignment in the *Hybrid Scenario* will be due the following class. Because the schedule is an alternating A-Day/B-Day schedule, it benefits the student to complete their homework that afternoon or evening. In the afternoon of the *Hybrid Scenario*, there are both in-school and remote teacher office hours and times can be scheduled by students to be in labs to get additional hands-on work. Depending on State guidelines, athletics and activities may be available in-person for all students. If so, bus runs will pick up students who are scheduled on their "class from home" week in the early afternoon and bring them to school for tutoring, open labs, and/or athletic practices or activity meetings. Bus runs also will take students home after tutoring or practices and meetings in the early evening as they have done in the past. This scenario offers unique opportunities to students and options for families, but involves many organizational details. More details will follow in future

communications regarding this scenario, but it is important to know that students from the same family will be on the same rotational weeks for learning in-school and learning from home. Buses will run with one student per seat and students will need to wear masks prior to entering the bus and the entire time on the bus. Parents may take their child to school and students may drive to school. More details on these options will follow should this scenario be put into place.

All of the scenarios are different from what may be experienced during the end of our last school year. When the scenario dictates that a student is not in school, I ask that parents partner with the school in setting the expectation of participation by the student, especially when the student is learning from home. Regulations from the Illinois State Board of Education have stated that traditional grading should occur with modifications as needed for technology access issues, etc. If a student does not have their school-issued iPad or does not have access to the Internet from home, please call your school's student services department as we want to help get those tools in place prior to the school year.

This information is just an introduction to the three possible scenarios. Teams continue to develop specific opportunities for students with individualized education plans and English learners. Details will continue with a communication on Friday, July 17, including additional information regarding scenarios, details on the cleaning and disinfecting protocols used by our schools, how symptom and temperature checks will occur at school, and an update of the outlook for our District 211 start based on the health of our region. Wednesday, July 22 is three weeks before the first day of school. At that time, information will be given as to the schedule for the first two weeks of school with the understanding that in three weeks, changes can occur within our region. **Based on the current health of our region and the fact that we are currently five weeks away from the first day of school, we will either be in the *Remote Scenario* or the *Hybrid Scenario* on August 13 for the start of school.**

Given the above information, please share your reactions to and plans for in-person and remote learning, bus riding, etc. via this short [survey](#). Prior to the next communication on July 17, if you have feedback or questions regarding the start of the school year, also share those using the same link.

My sincere thanks for your patience and flexibility during this lead-time to August 13. I hope this communication has given you a general understanding to the possibilities for the next school year and the choices available to each family. The safety of our students and staff within our schools is my highest priority, and I look forward to sharing more details regarding those protocols in the next communication.

Sincerely,

Lisa Small

Superintendent

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