

Dear D105 Families,

As noted in the D105 Remote Learning Parent-Student Handbook, District 105 remains committed to our district mission, “Empowering students to make a difference in our world by assisting them to be self-directed, passionate life-long learners within a healthy and safe environment for staff and students.” As we navigate this pandemic, we continue to prioritize rigorous and relevant instruction embedded in individual academic, social-emotional, and personal growth in both the hybrid and remote school settings. Our staff is consistently reflecting on the celebrations and opportunities the first grading period has presented. This continuous improvement reflection will help us prepare for the second trimester.

Part of the planning for the second trimester will require parents to communicate with the building principal no later than **Friday, October 16, 2020** if requesting a change in your child’s/children’s instructional setting (from Remote to Hybrid or Hybrid to Remote). The second trimester begins on November 16, 2020. We are asking for this information well before the end of the first trimester because changing learning settings can potentially have a significant impact on our current programs. One such impact is our ability to abide by IDPH and CDC guidelines which include six feet of social distance. This may present a challenge as some of our schools have smaller classroom spaces.

It’s hard to believe that we are in our fourth week of the hybrid program. Over several days, I have received some inquiries regarding a plan to increase in-person learning time. Our hope is that, along with following state and federal guidelines, our voluntary non-diagnostic COVID-19 screening program will help guide our decision on when it is safe to increase in-person learning. The tentative start date for the screening program is Saturday, October 17, 2020. A FAQ that includes schedules and protocols is attached to this communication.

In addition, we will continue to consult with medical professionals concerning decisions around COVID-19. We also plan to send a survey to staff and parents in early November for feedback regarding the educational experience during the first trimester. This feedback will also help guide future decisions as we continue to evaluate options to enhance our current program.

As shared in *The Return To Learn Plan* and at the July, 27 2020 Board meeting, administrators will communicate throughout the year as we make decisions based within the following guidelines:

- **Maintaining the health and safety of students, staff and families**
- Implementation of in-person instruction to the extent possible under state and federal guidelines

- Prioritization of providing in-person instruction for students who have Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), 504 plans, and/or who receive English Language Learning supports
- Consideration of staffing implications
- Focus on fiscal responsibility
- Flexibility to respond to changing conditions

These principles are informed by guidance provided by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and potentially other federal and state health organizations.

Thank you for your continued partnership.

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LaGrange District 105
Superintendent of Schools