



21 July 2020

Dear newest CSA Students, Parents and Caregivers:

First, let me say how thrilled I am for you to join the CSA family! This has been no ordinary time and I hope this letter finds you and your family safe and healthy. While this is not my typical welcome to CSA letter, I wanted to take time to share some updates from our school district on the 2020-2021 opening plans.

As a Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) school, the administration, faculty, and staff of the Cleveland School of the Arts (CSA) have been awaiting district guidance on our opening plans for the 2020-2021 school year and what school will look like during this public health crisis. Recently, our CEO/superintendent, shared with us a few key details which include:

- The first day of school for CSA will be Tuesday, September 8, 2020
- The district will rely on Ohio's Public Health Advisory System (OPHAS) in making system-wide decisions for learning which include full-time instruction for all students during OPHAS Level 1, blended-Learning options with some in-person instruction for all students during OPHAS Levels 3 and 4 with virtual learning options for students who cannot return to school, and all remote-learning during OPHAS Level 4
- The district plans to share its full reopening plan to schools and families on July 24th

Please review the district's guidance as communicated by CEO Gordon attached to this letter. Please also continue to check the following websites for up-to-date information:

www.Clevelandmetroschools.org and click on the Back to School Updates Page or visit www.Clevelandschoolofthearts.org

Please know that while there are still many questions, I will follow up with communications in the coming weeks, after the district releases the full re-opening plan.

As a school community, we are committed to making this the safest and best possible year for you, under these circumstances. After we learn of the district's full opening plans, we will use the plans as our guide to re-design our new student and family orientation for later in August.

For students anxious to learn their schedule, please know that the scheduling process has been put on hold until after the district releases the full re-opening plan. More information about scheduling will come in one of my follow up communications.

Also, at this time, our main office remains closed, however voicemails are checked regularly.

If you have any questions, please reach out to me via email at john.lepelley@clevelandmetroschools.org

I look forward to seeing you all soon. Until then, stay safe and healthy.

Educationally yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'John M. LePelley'.

John LePelley, Ed.D.
Head of School

Chief Executive Officer

Eric S. Gordon

Board of Education

Anne E. Bingham
Board Chair

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Lisa Thomas, Ph.D.

Kathleen C. Valdez, Esq.

Ex Officio Members

Alex Johnson, Ph.D.

Harlan M. Sands, J.D., MBA



Guiding Principles

FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

OPPORTUNITY

Like all Ohio school districts, CMSD's educational system was altered significantly when the Governor ordered all schools closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. From that challenge came an opportunity for us to address the digital divide and other inequities as we fully commit ourselves to ensuring every CMSD scholar has access to a quality education and the tools needed for success. A new school year with varied learning methods provides an opportunity for us to deepen the work already begun at CMSD, with personalized, inquiry-based, mastery learning.

EQUITY

The Coronavirus crisis and the nation's heightened awareness of racial inequality and social injustice challenges us to consider the role schools play in ensuring every child has an equal chance for success. That means recognizing the unique challenges and barriers faced by our individual students and families and providing the supports they need to overcome those barriers.

SUCCESS

Providing every scholar with an equitable start and empowering them to succeed in school and in the colleges and careers that await them is integral to our commitment to Excellence in Learning and Teaching. CMSD educators strive to ensure that every child has an excellent education, one where learning is joyful and adventurous and where every child has an equal opportunity for success.

Priorities

FOR A SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL YEAR

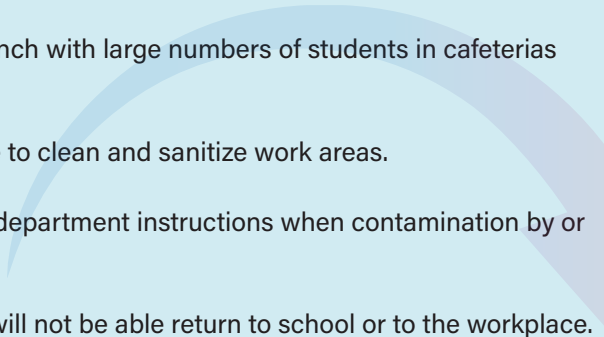
- Maintaining the health, safety and well being of our scholars and educators
- Exemplifying excellence and equity in learning and teaching
- Ensuring that learning is joyful, adventurous and aligned to a focused, unified core curriculum
- Supporting our scholars, educators and families in adapting to new methods and learning cycles
- Ensuring operational efficiency across the system
- Partnering with community organizations and leveraging local assets to more fully and equitably support our scholars, educators and families

Anticipated Changes

FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

When Governor Mike DeWine and state officials directed Ohio's school districts to prepare for the reopening of schools, they charged districts with developing plans for how best to develop educational scenarios that align with guidance of state and local health department officials. Because those guidelines call for social distancing and deep cleaning routines to avoid contamination and spread of COVID-19, staff, families and caregivers can assume that the school year will look and feel significantly different as we conform to a number of necessary changes to ensure the safety of our students, staff and families.

These include:

- Schools will not be able to transport 40-50 students on a bus.
 - Schools will not be able to hold class with 25 students in a classroom.
 - Schools will not be able to hold breakfast or lunch with large numbers of students in cafeterias at a single time.
 - Educators and school staff will need extra time to clean and sanitize work areas.
 - Schools will be required to adopt strict health department instructions when contamination by or contact with a known case is reported.
 - Some students and staff, for varying reasons, will not be able return to school or to the workplace.
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Given the strict health and safety guidance for social distancing and deep cleaning routines, it is highly likely that a “hybrid learning” scenario will be in play, with scholars learning in-person for part of the time and using a blended learning approach for other times. While we will do our very best to provide as many in-person learning opportunities for our scholars as possible, we will also rely on Ohio’s Public Health Advisory System (OPHAS) in making system-wide decisions. These include:

OPHAS Level 1 (Yellow) – Active Exposure and spread

CMSD will provide daily, full-time instruction for all students while maintaining public health sanitation measures as outlined in Ohio’s School Reopening Guidance.

OPHAS Level 2 (Orange) – Increased exposure and spread

Exercise high degree of caution. CMSD will provide a blended learning option with in-person instruction provided to all students for at least part of the week, and remote instruction provided for the balance of the week, while adhering to public health sanitation and social distancing measures as outlined in Ohio’s School Reopening Guidance. CMSD will also provide a complete virtual learning option for those students who cannot return to school.

OPHAS Level 3 (Red) – Very high exposure and spread

Limit activities as much as possible. CMSD will provide a blended learning option with in-person instruction provided to all students for at least part of the week, and remote instruction provided for the balance of the week, while adhering to public health sanitation and social distancing measures as outlined in Ohio’s School Reopening Guidance. CMSD will also provide a complete virtual learning option for those students who cannot return to school.

OPHAS Level 4 (Purple) – Severe exposure and spread

Only leave home for supplies and services. CMSD will provide remote learning for all students, with no in-person instruction provided during this period of time.

The CEO’s weekly messages to the community will provide important updates as our reopening plans are finalized.

Reopening Calendar

JULY

- 02 | Governor DeWine releases guidelines for reopening schools in Ohio
- CEO Eric Gordon begins weekly messaging to families & community about the District's planning and preparation for reopening CMSD schools
- 24 | Target date for CMSD Reopening Plan to be finalized and released to the public

AUGUST

- 03 | Staff in year-round schools return to work
- 12 | Staff in all other CMSD schools return to work
- 24 | **FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR YEAR-ROUND STUDENTS ONLY**

SEPTEMBER

- 08 | **FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR ALL TRADITIONAL AND EXTENDED-YEAR SCHOOLS**

