

CMSD Reopening PLAN



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Message from CEO Eric S. Gordon



Our CMSD school community has endured more than its share of change since March 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic erupted, closing all schools and businesses in Ohio to help curb the spread of the virus.

While coronavirus has had a global impact, it was most damaging to communities like ours where, because of years of structural inequities, our families rely on food and other basic services from our schools and where nearly 40% of our community's households didn't have access to what should be a basic public utility in our country, the Internet, while simultaneously being asked to learn remotely, apply for unemployment remotely, seek new employment remotely, see their doctors remotely and more.

The civic unrest caused by the continued senseless deaths of African-Americans across our country, further illuminated the huge, decades-long, systemic inequities that communities of color and the school districts that have served them continue to confront.

As we approached the new school year, our Reopening Planning Team tackled both of these challenges as they envisioned what school will look like and how our students and educators will experience learning and teaching this year. As our Excellence for All theme indicates, from these challenges we see a tremendous Opportunity to meet the unique needs of every child, to create a system where Equity is evident throughout our learning community and to ensure that Success is not the end goal for some students but for all students.

Our Planning Team was guided by these core beliefs and by principles that reflect our highest priorities: the health and safety of our students, staff and school community, consistent delivery of high-quality instruction with joyful, adventurous learning experiences, and the active engagement of our school community to inform and implement a plan that values the safety and social & emotional needs of our entire school community.

We developed this plan within the context of a future that remains highly uncertain, knowing that we must be prepared at any time to adapt to changing circumstances with regard to the progress of COVID-19 testing, vaccine development, and continuously evolving public health and safety information and guidance.

This uncertainty requires us not only to be flexible in our ability to plan for and adapt to changing circumstances, but to approach every decision with what's best for our CMSD community.

This plan includes three scenarios – in-person learning, remote learning and a hybrid learning model, all of which we will employ as needed and as public health information prescribes.

As we have since March, CMSD will continue to operate in close contact with public health experts and other leaders from across the city and country as we share best practices and expand our thinking about how best to operate our schools, deliver instruction, implement school safety protocols and provide student transportation and meal service as we build a safe and inclusive environment for everyone.

A key element of our reopening strategy is a commitment to addressing the social & emotional needs of our students and staff, and addressing all forms of inequity across our District. As we approach the start of the 2020-21 school year, I look forward to continuing to serve and support our students, educators, families and caregivers in what will be a year of Opportunity, Equity and Success for All.

Sincerely,

Eric S. Gordon

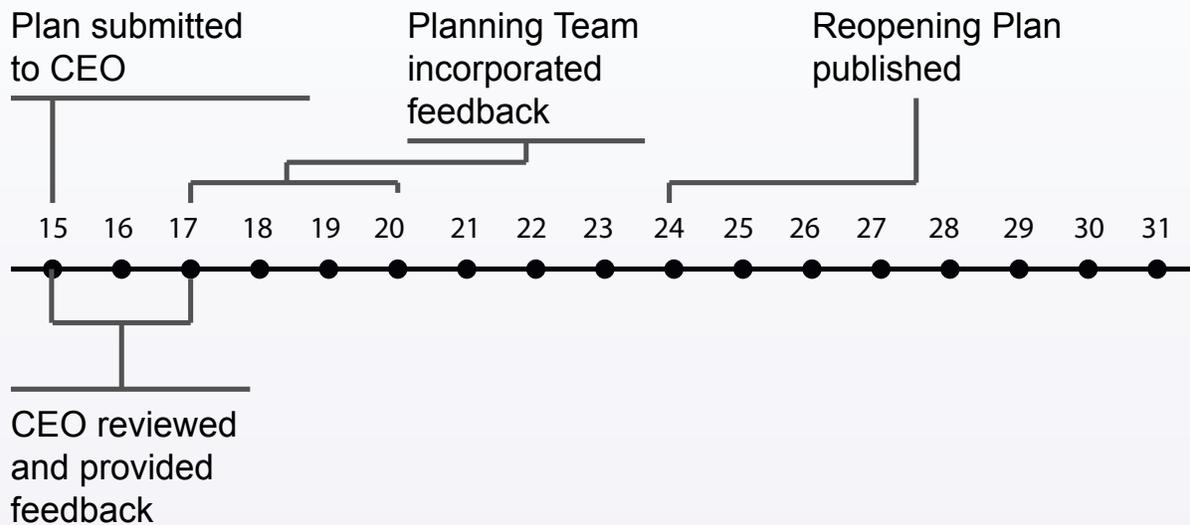
Timeline for Reopening Schools



“ Children are our greatest treasure. They are our future. ”

- Nelson Mandela

Internal Preparation



JULY

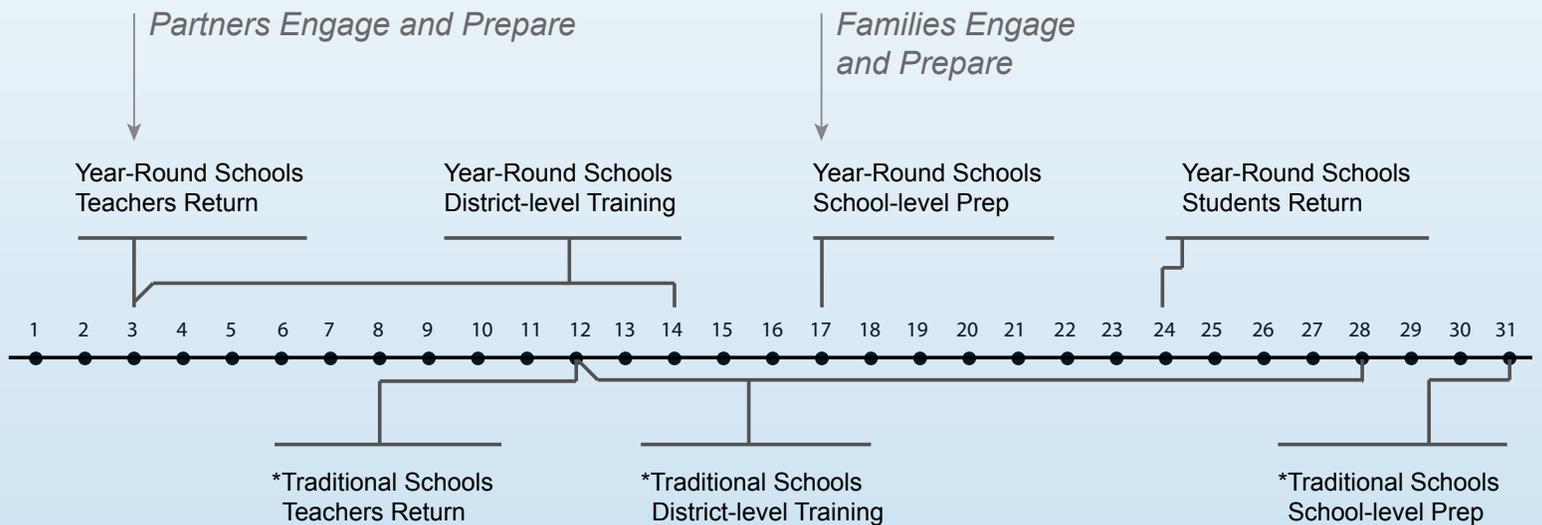
Timeline for Reopening Schools



“Nine-tenths of education is encouragement.”

- Anatole France

Broader Engagement Commences



*Extended year schools will follow the same timeline.

AUGUST

Timeline for Reopening Schools



“Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself.”

- John Dewey

Review and Improve Plan

October

Assess First Quarter via Metrics and Survey; Adapt

January

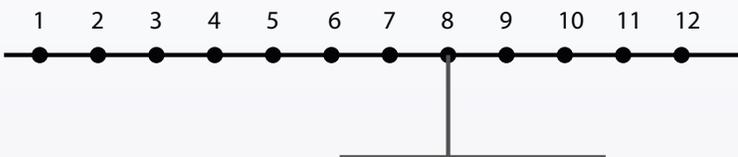
Assess Second Quarter via Metrics and Survey; Adapt

April

Assess Third Quarter via Metrics and Survey; Adapt

June

Assess Fourth Quarter via Metrics and Survey; Adapt



*Traditional Schools:
Students Return

*Extended year schools will follow the same timeline.

SEPT.



Excellence for ALL

Why Opportunity Matters

While all work at CMSD is guided by our core values, our Reopen CMSD work is driven by our core principles:

- Opportunity to deepen and further our work around personalized (learner-centered), inquiry-oriented mastery learning.
- A more managed instructional foundation will ensure greater clarity in expectation, equitable opportunity to learn and greater efficiency in implementation and support.
- Operating from an essential set of core curriculum in literacy, math, science and social studies will increase the likelihood of effective intervention, support leading to an acceleration of learning.
- Because of the possibility of changes in public health conditions and differing needs throughout our community, it is likely that varied, flexible formats for service delivery will be needed.
- ODE/state guidance is not yet finalized and may require further modification in our plans and thinking.

Why Equity Matters

- Historical inequities, especially along color lines, have created unfair and unequal health and socioeconomic realities for CMSD families, an unfairness that COVID-19 not only compounded, but also laid bare for the nation to see and to address.
- Research at the Centers for Disease Control shows African Americans are on average about 30% more likely to have health conditions that lead to more critical effects of COVID-19.
- Economically, minorities are overrepresented in jobs vulnerable to COVID-19 exposure, and also in jobs more vulnerable to COVID-19-related layoffs.
- Nearly half of all jobs held by Latino residents and almost one third of jobs held by black residents are vulnerable.
- CMSD must seize the opportunity to support an equitable reopening that takes into account the needs of our students and their families.
- CMSD will continue to advocate for equal opportunities for our families to thrive during this crisis and to ensure equitable outcomes for our students and their families.

Why Success Matters

At the heart of our approach to reopening CMSD, it is our belief that every child in the District has the right to a quality education. Key to the success of every child who attends a CMSD school is our commitment to closing opportunity gaps, interrupting inequitable practices, examining biases and creating an inclusive school environment for adults and children.

Above all, we are committed to ensuring equally high outcomes for every scholar and educator in our system by addressing barriers to their success. Toward that end, we are collaborating with county and city agencies to align services and supports of our community partners, many of whom are modifying their programs to meet the needs of our families when our students are remote learning or not in school this year.

Together, we will ensure success through:

- Excellence in learning and teaching
- Academic empowerment, voice and choice
- Learning environments that prioritize health, safety and equity as essential elements of social & emotional learning
- Joyful and adventurous learning opportunities
- People-focused solutions and decision making
- Data and feedback to improve learning and teaching
- Discovering and cultivating the unique gifts, talents and interests of every child

Reopening CMSD

The Core Planning Team

The Planning Team comprised school leaders, teachers, CMSD parents and community leaders representing key partners in the higher education, business, government, faith-based and philanthropic community, who formed and organized the parameters, resources and timeline for the CMSD Reopening Plan.

Reopening Plan Co-Leads

Christine Fowler-Mack, *Chief Portfolio Officer*

Lisa Farmer Cole, *Chief of Schools*

Valentina Moxon, *Chief Academic Officer*

Reopening Plan Core Team Members

Roseann Canfora, *Deputy Chief, Communications*

Diana Ehlert, *Deputy Chief, Academic Resources*

Erin Frew, *Network Support Leader*

Eric Gordon, *Chief Executive Officer*

Dennis Hill, *Chief, Safety & Security*

Tracy Hill, *Executive Director of Family & Community Engagement*

Michael Houser, *Policy & Labor Liaison*

Michelle Kirkwood Hughes, *High School Principal*

Trent Mosley, *Chief Engagement Officer*

Ann Mullin, *Program Director, Public Education, The George Gund Foundation*

Elizabeth Nelson Creel, *Executive Director, Curriculum*

Shari Obrenski, *Teacher, CTU President*

Tom Ott, *Director, CMSD News Bureau*

Kevin Payton, *Principal & President, CCAS*

Tracy Radich, *Teacher, K-8 Upper (Grade 4-5)*

Derek Richey, *Chief Financial Officer*

Gary Sautter, *Deputy Chief, Capital Projects*

Marcy Shankman, *Leadership Coach & Strategist*

Melissa Skelly, *Executive Director of Policy and Planning*

Josh Terchek, *Director, Research & Development*

Karen Thompson, *Chief of Staff*

Curtis Timmons, *Chief, Information Technology*

Lori Ward, *Chief Talent & Equity Officer*

Patrick Zohn, *Chief Operations Officer*

“It will take all of us working together to ensure our staff and students are eager and ready to begin the new school year in learning environments that are safe and fully equipped with the supports they need for success.”



Values & Priorities of the Planning Team

Guiding Principles

In charting a path to a successful reopening, The CMSD Reopening Plan is grounded by these core values and priorities:

- Maintaining the health, safety and well-being of our students and educators
- Exemplifying excellence and equity in learning and teaching, filled with joy and aligned to a focused, unified core curriculum
- Supporting our students, educators, and families as they adapt to new methods and cycles of learning and teaching
- Ensuring operational efficiency across the organization to encourage flexibility and financial health
- Partnering with community organizations and leveraging local assets to more fully and equitably support our students, educators and families
- Adapting our operations to current and ongoing COVID-19 risks
- Deepening our work around the need for personalized (learner-centered) and inquiry-based mastery learning strategies that have already proven to be successful in our schools
- Developing flexible formats for service delivery as guidance from public health officials necessitates modification of our plans

“ Education breeds confidence.

Confidence breeds hope.

Hope breeds peace.”

– Confucius

Improving the Plan

- Using both quantitative and qualitative data, CMSD will periodically evaluate the Reopening Plan to determine what's working and what needs improvement
- CMSD will revise and improve the Plan every quarter, as we learn what is working best for our students, families, and staff
- Family and community engagement as well as consistent communication with our school community will be instrumental in gathering feedback needed in continuously improving the Plan.
- The thoughts, feelings, ideas and suggestions of our students, families and staff will continue to inform practices and procedures as we work together to provide the supports they need and remove barriers to their success



What We Heard from our School Community

CMSD administered remote learning surveys in the spring to families and educators to determine how our stakeholders experienced remote learning, how well it worked and for whom it worked best. A second survey was done this summer to gather more specific information about the remote learning experience. That feedback provided insights that were instrumental in developing the 2020-21 CMSD Reopening Plan.

Students

- Slightly less than half (45%) of the scholar respondents were able to access online schoolwork “almost all the time” with about 13% of students who said they could their access online schoolwork “once in a while” or “almost never.”
- Students who were able to access schoolwork online “almost all the time” reported they were more confident in their ability complete their schoolwork when compared to students who could access their schoolwork online “once in a while” or “never.”

Families

- Parent respondents who had access to high-speed Internet were less concerned with their child’s learning when compared to parent respondents who had “no Internet” or access the Internet “through a smartphone.”
- Parent respondents who had access to high-speed Internet were less concerned with their child’s social & emotional well-being when compared to parent respondents who had “no Internet’ or access to the Internet ‘through a smartphone.”

Educators

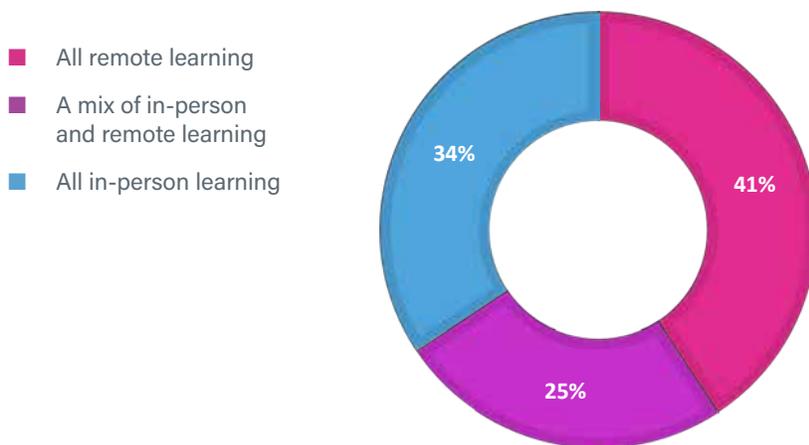
- High school educators reported a greater level of confidence that they could provide rigorous remote learning than educators in elementary and middle grades.

What We Heard from our School Community



Parent Preference

Assuming appropriate safety measures are in place, what is your preference for how your child returns to school in the fall?

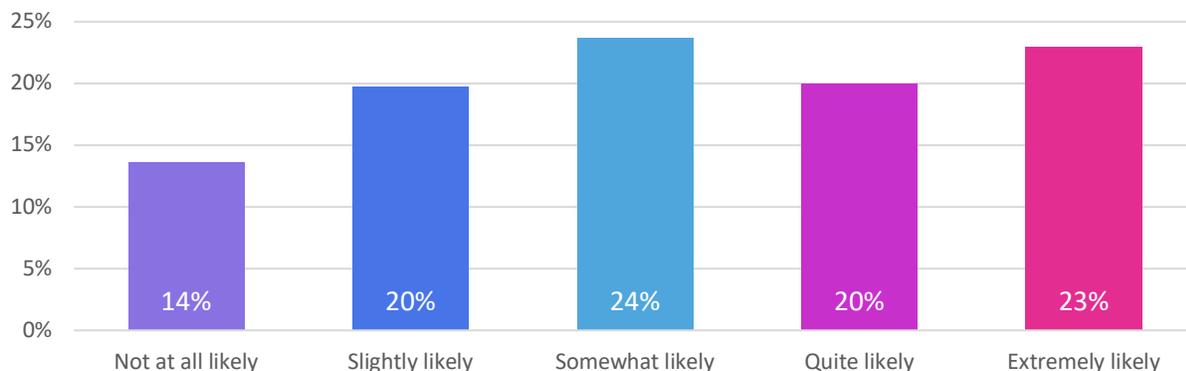


Key Insight: 60% of parents wanted in-person or hybrid learning for the fall, while 40% wanted all remote learning.

Parent Support

How likely is it that someone will be able to provide learning support to your child if a form of remote learning continues in the fall?

Key Insight: Over 40% of parents indicated that it was "quite likely" or "extremely likely" that someone would be able to provide learning support for remote learning. Less than 15% of parents indicated it was "Not at all likely."



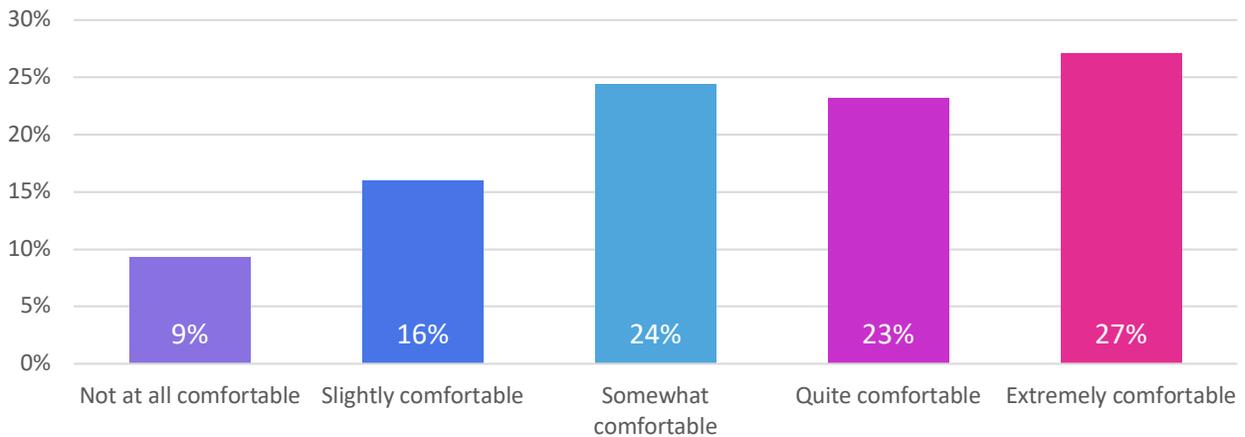
What We Heard from our School Community



Parent Support

How comfortable are you with supporting your child with different technology and tools required for remote learning?

Key Insight: About half of parents indicated they were “Extremely Comfortable” or “Quite Comfortable” with supporting their child with technology and tools for remote learning. Less than 10% of parents were not at all comfortable.



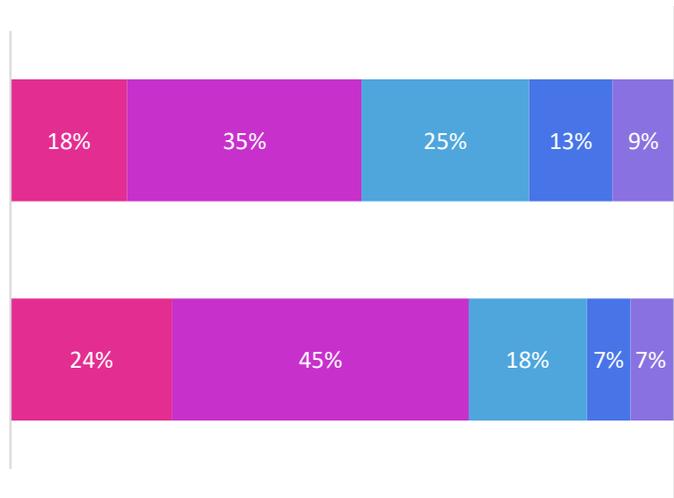
Teacher Agreement

How much do you agree with the following statements:
A form of remote learning should have...

More frequent in-person learning in younger grade levels over older grade levels.

More frequent in-person learning for students with greater needs.

Key Insight: Most teachers agreed or strongly agreed that more frequent in person learning should occur in younger grade levels and for those students with the most need.



■ Strongly agree
 ■ Agree
 ■ Neither agree nor disagree
 ■ Disagree
 ■ Strongly disagree

Safety Guidance that Informed the Reopening Plan



State & Federal Requirements

The CMSD Reopening Plan adheres to Guidelines for School Opening Preparedness issued by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Ohio Department of Public Health (ODPH), and will follow these steps, depending on four levels of risk to our school community.

When there is no community transmission: OPHAS Level 1 (Yellow) CMSD is required to:

- Review, update and implement emergency operations plans (EOPs)
- Develop information-sharing systems with partners
- Teach and reinforce healthy hygiene practices
- Intensify cleaning and disinfecting protocols
- Monitor and plan for absenteeism
- Assess group gatherings and events and considering the postponing of non-critical gatherings and events
- Require sick students and staff to stay home
- Establish procedures for students and staff who are sick at school
- Create and test communications plans for use with the school community
- Review CDC's guidance for businesses and employers

When there is minimal to moderate community transmission:

OPHAS Level 2 (Orange)

OPHAS Level 3 (Red)

- Coordinate with local health officials
- Implement multiple social distancing strategies
- Consider ways to accommodate the needs of children and families at risk for serious illness from COVID-19

When there is a confirmed case that has entered the school, regardless of community transmission: OPHAS Level 4 (Purple)

- Coordinate with local health officials
- Dismiss students and most staff for 2-5 days
- Communicate with staff, parents and students
- Clean and disinfect thoroughly
- Make decisions about extending the dismissal
- Implement strategies to continue education and related supports for students

Safety Guidance that Informed the Reopening Plan



State Guidance for Learning and Teaching

The Ohio Department of Education requires CMSD to provide direction regarding:

1. How we will determine and document the instructional needs of our students
2. How we will ensure equitable access to quality instruction
3. How student progress will be monitored
4. What method(s) we will use to determine competency, credit completion and promotion of students to a higher-grade level

CMSD Goals for Learning and Teaching, whether using remote, hybrid or in-person instructional scenarios

- **Guide all decisions around principles of Equity**
CMSD will ensure that all students have access to grade-level content in ways that meet their individual needs, while taking into account their home learning environments (e.g. flexibility in completing asynchronous tasks, the availability of in-person instructional support).
- **Ensuring a coherent learning experience**
CMSD students will experience a coherent/authentic in-person, remote and/or hybrid instructional model aligned with the curriculum in use, essential instructional content, and receive quality feedback, aligned with strategies grounded in best practices and learning research.
- **Instructional Resources and Strategies**
CMSD will provide teachers and school leaders with research-based instructional strategies that support remote and in-person instruction. We will support teachers in their use of the most effective instructional resources and technological tools by providing a recommended list of resources that support each level.
- **Textbooks/Curriculum**
CMSD will continue to invest in high-quality curriculum resources that are culturally responsive. Resources selected can easily be adapted to remote learning without sacrificing rigor. The curriculum resource will provide differentiated support to meet the needs of our diverse learners.

**FACE
COVERINGS**



**HEALTH
ASSESSMENTS**



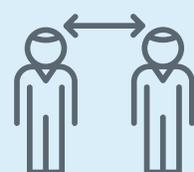
**GOOD
HYGIENE**



**CLEAN &
SANITIZE**



**SOCIAL
DISTANCING**



What We Know and Can Expect

We know that when Governor Mike DeWine and state officials directed Ohio’s school districts to close in the spring of 2020 and to prepare for reopening again this fall, Ohio school districts are required to develop our own plans for how best to create educational scenarios that align with health and safety guidelines and the needs of the unique needs of our respective school populations.

We can expect that learning and teaching will take place in ways that are different from the past. COVID-19 health guidelines now call for social distancing and deep cleaning routines to avoid contamination and spread of the virus. School staff, students families and caregivers must be prepared to operate in ways that look and feel significantly different as CMSD conforms to a number of changes necessary for ensuring their safety. We must also be prepared for local, state and federal guidelines to change and be prepared to adapt to those changes, as needed.

School & District Readiness



Delayed start dates for our year-round schools and traditional schools were implemented to provide ample time for the District to train employees and rehearse school opening processes that align to the health, wellness and safety needs of students and staff and to orient our students and families to the ways in which learning and teaching will take place this year and provide the tools they need for success.

The Reopening Plan addresses the day-to-day school operations by looking at what can be expected when it comes to 1) going to school, 2) entering school, 3) being inside the school, and 4) leaving school.

Routine and Convenient Safeguards

All CMSD school buildings will be safe places to learn and all CMSD schools, offices and work areas will be safe places to work. With health and safety foremost in mind, CMSD is committed to reopening processes that fully align with guidance provided by the CDC and local, state and national guidelines for reopening K-12 schools: adjusting as needed for changes in recommendations:

- Strict social distancing of at least 6 feet for schools, buses and other district facilities when not at home—supported where feasible by social distancing ambassadors in hotspots and high-risk areas of school operations.
- District-supplied Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) masks in public spaces, including on transportation and at work/school (face coverings, gloves, sanitizers, etc.)
- Active health monitoring with touchless temperature checks for all students, staff and visitors.
- Signage and space planning with floor markings, sneeze guards, health posters, etc.
- Sanitation protocols, including training to make safe schools everyone’s responsibility.
- Isolation plan for students and staff exhibiting symptoms.

What We Know and Can Expect



- Stringent personal sanitation and hygiene practices, including frequent hand washing.
- Staying home when sick.
- Routine disinfection of surfaces and objects.
- Enhanced precautions if you are near a person or group that is particularly vulnerable to COVID-19 risks.
- COVID-19 Hotline 216.838.9980 to manage and address immediate health concerns.
- COVID-19 Website to provide ongoing communication, resources and updates before and during the 2020-21 school year.
- Access to CMSD services online wherever possible for enrollment and other essential functions.

Concern for Vulnerable Populations

In planning for the reopening of CMSD schools, The Planning Team took into consideration the fact that some students, staff and families are considered more vulnerable because they are at a higher risk of being infected by COVID-19, experiencing severe illness or death from COVID-19 or having longer-term physical or behavioral health complications indirectly related to COVID-19. They may include:

- individuals who are over 60 and/ or have underlying health conditions considered high risk.
- individuals living in congregate living facilities (including long-term care facilities, shelters, detention).
- returning citizens and certain racial/ethnic minority groups who face historical inequities that have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.

In support of vulnerable populations, CMSD will:

- provide universal safeguards to protect our most vulnerable staff, students and families.
- make every effort to raise awareness of the need for staff, students and families to remain home and minimize time in public, wear face coverings when not at home and to be diligent about hygiene, e.g., washing hands, extra cleaning of surfaces.
- provide the flexibility needed for students and staff to protect themselves and their families by enabling them to remain at home when necessary and offering added supports.
- provide access to hygiene and sanitation supplies, screening with temperature checks and symptom questionnaires, testing and safe isolation as needed to ensure our learning, teaching and work environments are safe.

Readiness for Learning and Teaching

Whether learning and teaching takes place in person or remotely in any quarter of the school year, CMSD will ensure that lessons are interactive, fun, hands-on and engaging. While social distancing and PPE requirements will limit some interactions, CMSD educators will ensure learning and teaching provides:

- high quality instruction that is and aligned to prioritized content and curriculum.
- better access to technology and proper training for device use.
- a Learning Management System (LMS) that allows for consistent access to content and learning from anywhere.

What We Know and Can Expect



CMSD Learning Management System (LMS)

Based in part on community feedback, students, staff and families can expect CMSD to deliver and manage instruction through a Learning Management System for all students in PreK-12th grade. Recognizing the need for consistency in the delivery of instructional content delivery across grades levels, the Districts LMS software will enable documentation, tracking, reporting, automation and delivery of educational and developmental programs through:

- *Schoology* for grades PreK-12
- *Seesaw* for grades PreK-6

The LMS enables:

- students to access content and learn anywhere at any time, whether in-person, remote or using a hybrid of the two.
- staff to provide consistent content and to teach anywhere at any time whether in person, remote or using a hybrid of the two.
- the District to access academic and developmental progress and make it easier to identify and target students and schools that most need intensive support.

The LMS requires:

- all students and staff to have reliable and compatible devices and Internet access.
- all students and staff to have applicable training on devices and access to the LMS.
- a robust device repair plan that includes a buffer stock of devices and easily accessible repair locations.
- CMSD to continue its work with Digital C to provide Internet access to all Cleveland neighborhoods.

Investments in Technology & Resources

- Common learning platforms & tools like Schoology (PreK-12) and Seesaw (PreK-6)
- Additional student devices with a goal of moving to 1:1 with Chromebooks, iPads, etc.
- Reliable high-speed internet through hot spots and Digital C connections
- Servicing and updated devices/instructional resources of staff as necessary and practical
- Professional development in technology use, remote learning, and other skills
- In-person and telephone technology supports for device management, lost/stolen devices, device repair, password support, and connectivity support

What We Know and Can Expect



What Students Can Expect

Health & Safety

- Social distancing on school buses, in classrooms, at meal time, during recess and in areas when in school facilities
- Altered school and bus schedules due to decreased capacity
- Staggered entrance and exit procedures to limit the number of students together at one time
- Requirements for PPE in accordance with state and local guidance
- Disposable masks and face shields for special populations, including medically fragile units
- Prepackaged meals to reduce food service lines
- Eating breakfast and lunch in classrooms to avoid large gatherings in the cafeteria
- Monitoring by a school nurse when exhibiting symptoms and until picked up from school
- Access to a designated isolation area while waiting to be picked up from school
- Access to a COVID-19 Hotline for any questions or concerns



Learning & Teaching

- High-quality instruction aligned to content, curriculum and method of delivery
- Better access to technology
- Training for proper use of digital devices
- A learning management system that will enable access to content and learning from anywhere at anytime

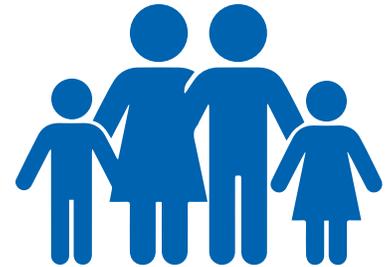
“ Education is a
once in a lifetime
opportunity to open
children’s hearts
and minds to the
unbelievable wonder
of the universe. ”

- Sir Anthony Seldon

What We Know and Can Expect



What Families Can Expect



Health & Safety

- Social distancing when their child is on a school bus, in a classroom, during breakfast, lunch, recess and other times in school facilities
- Altered school and bus schedules due to decreased capacity
- Required face coverings for students and parents in accordance with state and local guidance
 - A limited number will be provided to each student
 - Parents/caregivers/visitors will be provided masks as needed

Learning & Teaching

- High-quality instruction aligned to content, curriculum and method of delivery
- Better access to technology

Communication

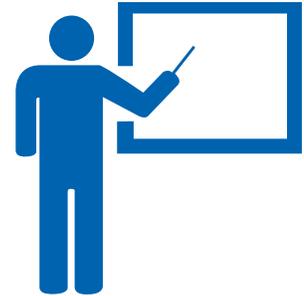
- Information and routine updates from District and school officials on the Reopening Plan, progress and adjustments
- School-based sign-up for e-alerts, text messages and interactive voice-recorded messages (IVRs) for notifications, health advisories and emergency alerts
- Easy sign-on for CMSD's mobile app and a dedicated website for Reopening updates, school and district news and progress
- Regular communication about your child's progress each quarter



What We Know and Can Expect



What Staff Can Expect



Health & Safety

- Social distancing in classrooms during in-person learning
 - > Clustering students in small groups or cohorts
 - > Teachers traveling to classes while students remain in the classroom
 - > Students eating meals in their classrooms to avoid shared space in the cafeteria
 - > Holding lessons and activities outside when possible
- Face covering requirement in accordance with state and local guidance
 - > A specific quantity of cloth masks will be supplied each quarter
- District-provided sanitation supplies
- Daily health self-assessment for symptoms prior to entering the school
- Access to a school nurse if exhibiting symptoms
- Access to a COVID-19 Hotline for any questions or concerns
- Reviewing and modifying emergency plans, fire drills and tornado drills to eliminate crowding

Learning & Teaching

- Facilitation of high-quality instruction aligned to our priorities for content/curriculum
- Better access to technology and proper training for device use

Communication & Support

- Frequent communication from the CEO and schools regarding plan progress and any changes to the plan if warranted
- Emotional and mental health support provided through Ease@Work
- Professional development and training on COVID-19 safety, technology/software, teaching in a remote-learning environment, etc., as needed for preparation to teach in a variety of scenarios
 - Before the first day of school
 - Weekly during remote or hybrid learning

What We Know and Can Expect



New Features This Year

- > **Touch-free temperature checks** for students, staff and families upon entering the school
- > **Hand sanitizers** in common areas of all school facilities
- > **Access to high-speed Internet** through District-provided hot spot or Digital C connection
- > **Learning Management System** to enable access to instruction anywhere at anytime

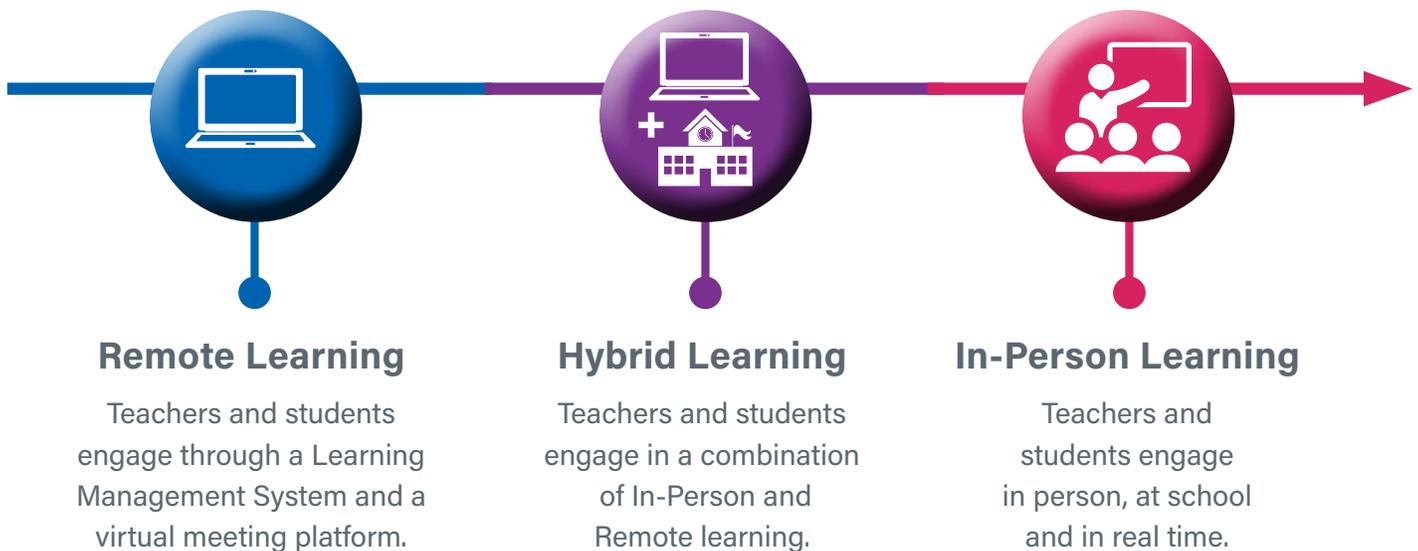


COVID-19 Hotline 216.838.9980

- The Hotline will be staffed by a school nurse trained to respond to COVID-19-related questions or concerns.
- Information shared will be managed according to COVID-19 protocols established by the Ohio Department of Health and the Cleveland Department of Public Health.
- Information called into the COVID-19 Hotline will be treated as protected health information and will remain confidential.
- Names of students, family members or staff in any COVID-19-related reports will not be shared with or disclosed to the public.
- The Hotline will follow established protocols for reporting positive cases and exposures to COVID-19 by students, staff or their family members to enable contact tracing and minimize contamination of others.
- All COVID-19 protocols, including management of the Hotline, are aligned with the latest health department guidance and ODH guidelines for health, safety and privacy.

How Schools will Operate in the 2020-21 School Year

CMSD is committed to delivering high-quality instruction to all students in both in-person and remote learning environments as public health conditions permit. While current conditions make remote learning the safest possible operating scenario, CMSD is well positioned to operate at any point in the 2020-21 school year in an in-person or hybrid (both remote and in-person) operating scenario, with the flexibility to revert from one scenario to the other as dictated by current risk factors.



All Remote Learning

CMSD continues to learn and adapt our remote learning practices in ways that best support our students, staff and families. We continue to work with our community partners to ensure students and families have access to high-speed Internet needed to enable remote learning. This all-remote learning option supports the need for some students and adults to remain remote due to pre-existing conditions or health concerns. It also supports the need for CMSD to be ready in August or at any moment in the 2020-21 school year to move to remote learning exclusively when public health guidelines dictate staying home to keep our school community safe.

How Schools will Operate in the 2020-21 School Year



Hybrid – In-Person and Remote Learning

The hybrid model of instruction enables staff and students to ease back into in-person instruction with a combination of in-person and remote learning. In-person learning enables educators to focus on topics best taught in the classroom, while virtual learning enables them to focus on topics that can be best learned online. A hybrid learning model may be different across schools depending on the physical size of the building, number of students enrolled, grade configuration or the number of students who need to be prioritized for in-person instruction.

In-Person Learning

CMSD looks forward to a day when we can bring all of our students, teachers and staff back to our schools. However, current public health guidance requires the District to focus primarily on reopening schools with remote learning until cleared to move to a hybrid or in-person learning environment as public health conditions allow. Until CMSD is cleared to bring everyone back to in-person learning, which is our desired goal, the District will continue to limit the number of people physically present in a building at any time to accommodate requirements for social distancing.



Health Advisories & Operating Scenarios



Sample Scenarios

OPHAS Level 3	OPHAS Level 4
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All Remote – PreK-8 & High School

CMUSD Operating Scenario for Fall 2020

	M	T	W	TH	F
All PreK-8 Students					
All HS Students					



In-person Learning



Remote Learning

- This option most closely resembles the spring 2020 learning environment when all schools were ordered closed.
 - While at home, students will learn new content with various supports in place
 - Employee work expectations will depend on whether an official stay-at-home order is in place
- A modified core curriculum will be delivered consistently through the newly-implemented Learning Management System.

Health Advisories & Operating Scenarios



Sample Scenarios

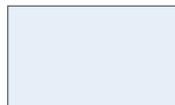
OPHAS Level 2

OPHAS Level 3

Hybrid PreK-8

Combination of In-Person & Remote Learning as health and safety levels improve

	M	T	W*	TH	F
SWD MD/AU & Behavior Disorder			*A subset of students with critical needs (MD/AU,CC SC, etc.) may report on Wednesdays for additional support. Remote Learning/ Planning/ Professional Development		
English Learners					
Homeless (Project ACT)					
PreK-2					
Grades 3-8 (A)					
Grades 3-8 (B)					
Students requiring extra support					



In-person Learning



Remote Learning

Health Advisories & Operating Scenarios



Sample Scenarios

OPHAS Level 2

OPHAS Level 3

Hybrid High School

Combination of In-Person & Remote Learning as health and safety levels improve

	M	T	W*	TH	F
SWD MD/AU & Behavior Disorder			*A subset of students with critical needs (MD/AU,CC SC, etc.) may report on Wednesdays for additional support. Remote Learning/ Planning		
Grades 9-10 (B)					
Grades 9-10 (A)					
Grades 11-12 (A)					
Grades 11-12 (B)					
Students requiring extra support			Rotates Quarterly		

High School schedule assumes a 5-hour, 40-minute student day with 50 minutes at the end for planning.

* Early student dismissal on Wednesday



In-person Learning



Remote Learning

Health Advisories & Operating Scenarios



Sample Scenarios

OPHAS Level 1

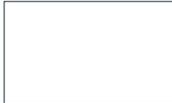
All In-Person – PreK-8 & High School

Our ultimate goal when health and safety conditions significantly improve.

	M	T	W	TH	F
All PreK-8 Students					
All HS Students					



In-person Learning



Remote Learning

- This scenario most closely resembles the in-person learning environment that students experienced before COVID-19.
- Requires social distancing, use of PPE and health monitoring as advised.



Excellence for All: Preparing for Success

School-based Back-to-School Events

CMSD students, staff and families are accustomed to seeing a citywide commitment to student success, as evidenced each year by the Mayor's Annual Back-to-School Fair. While our plan to start the year with a remote learning scenario will not permit the large event families are used to, CMSD staff is working collaboratively with city officials to prepare students and families for success in school-based orientations and back-to-school events that will take place virtually and in safe environments similar to those used for high school graduation events this spring.

Families can expect the same back-to-school supports as in previous years, with school supply distribution that will include PPE, digital devices and other items essential for each student's success this year.



Support for Special Populations

Individualized learning plans for students in special populations, including English Learners and Gifted will continue to drive planning, preparation and progress monitoring this year. CMSD will leverage staff in Related Services to support students across all scenarios:

- All special education students will receive services from an intervention specialist.
- Regardless of academic scenario, all English Learners will receive language services from a Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)/Bilingual certified teacher.
- Gifted students with Written Education Plans (WEP) will receive Gifted services.
- Plans for English Learners will be written by a TESOL/Bilingual Endorsed Teacher.
- Collaboration structures (both in-person and remote) will enable individual student collaboration, planning, documentation and progress monitoring.
- These strategies will understandably restrict intra-District student transfers during the school year.

Excellence for All: Preparing for Success



Health and Social & Emotional Learning

CMSD is committed to providing trauma-informed care and training for all building-level educators prior to the reopening of school in a variety of ways:

- Training will be grounded in deepening educators' understanding of how student learning and behavior are impacted by trauma and how educators can help students develop a greater sense of safety, connectedness and begin to build new emotional regulation skills.
- Professional development of the PBIS Framework (Positive Behavior Intervention Supports) will occur in all school buildings.
- CMSD will implement a tiered transition and integration plan for the start of school that meets the various needs of families and that can be met virtually during Quarter 1 and throughout the school year, as needed.

These include:

- School-based orientation events for families prior to the start of school
- Individual and small group orientations for special populations of students (e.g. EL, Special Education) where pertinent information will be shared prior to the start of school.
- Individualized orientations and home visits as permitted for students and families with life challenges that limited access to school, i.e. homeless students or students in foster care.
- Equity protocols will ensure equitable distribution of resources and supports.
- Professional learning for all staff will include trauma-informed practices and the PBIS framework.

Athletics and Extracurricular Activities

- The District is committed to following guidelines for ensuring that students have equitable access to resources, equipment, facilities with good ventilation systems and practice spaces when it is deemed safe for students and staff to return to participation in athletics and extracurricular activities.
- When cleared by health officials to engage in conditioning, practice and competition, the District will provide PPE, water, training masks, hand sanitizers, etc.
- CMSD will work cooperatively with partners in the medical community to complete requirements for physicals of CMSD athletes.
- During Quarter 1 when remote learning is implemented in all schools, CMSD will provide equitable access to the ESPORTS program.
- For at least Quarter 1, differentials for athletics/extracurricular activities that require in-person interaction will be suspended.

Virtual Academy Option

During and beyond Quarter 1, for families who prefer a 100% online “virtual academy” option, the District will provide remote academic services and allocate staff to support the online option with essential services including those that require certified intervention specialists, TESOL teachers and gifted teachers as the law requires.

School Operations



Transportation

- Transportation services will continue to operate to carry out essential services, including transporting students to meal sites during remote learning.
- When it is safe to return to school in either a Hybrid or In-Person scenario, CMSD will resume transportation services that conform to health department guidelines for PPE and social distancing.
- CMSD will increase mileage for determining bus transportation to the state minimum of 2.0 miles.
- During Hybrid scenarios, bus routes will decrease from 630 to 410.
- Cleaning of CMSD school buses will occur approximately four times a day.
- Hand sanitizer and mask dispensers will be set up on the bus stairwell or on the first bus seat for students to sanitize their hands once they board the bus and grab a mask, if needed.
- Routing will create more stops to limit the number of students at a cluster stop.
- CMSD will no longer transport sibling riders in grades 7 & 8.
- As an alternative, CMSD will Issue RTA bus passes for students in grades 1-6 who wish to ride with siblings in grades 7 & 8.



Attendance

CMSD will adapt current attendance structures and tools in ways that are responsive to the pandemic environment for in-person, remote learning and hybrid learning environments using state guidance to develop protocols for how we measure, track and document attendance during each of the operational scenarios.

School Operations

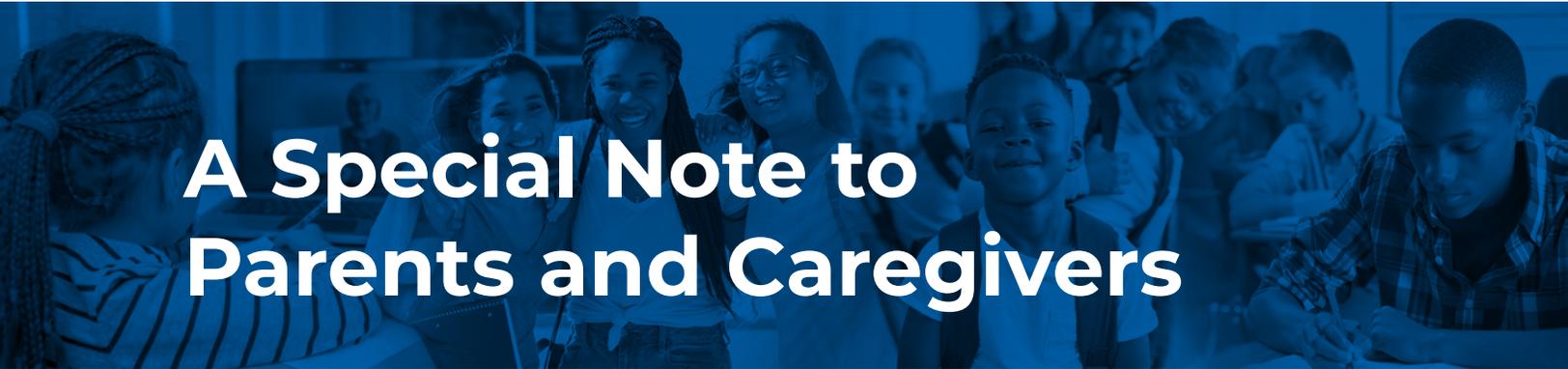


School Choice & Enrollment

CMSD enrollment specialists are available to assist families with their school choice and enrollment needs, and have implemented a number of changes to conform with operational changes in a digital environment:

- Permitting families to update contact information and upload registration documents
- Using alerts and messages to notify teachers and school staff of incoming students and/or issues requiring attention
- An inter-District transfer policy that establishes student transfer parameters between buildings and learning models during certain critical periods in the school year unless a documented issue of health and/or safety exists
- Limited transfers if the District is in a remote learning environment unless there is a documented issue of health and/or safety
- Revised procedures for District Proof of Residency for out-of-district families currently required to submit annual proof of residency each year
- Improved the means by which families routinely update their contact information
- Provide a virtual high school choice process and platform for 8th graders





A Special Note to Parents and Caregivers

We know and have taken into account that COVID-19 has wreaked havoc on the lives of the people of our community and on the lives of your children. The uncertainty brought by the public health crisis has also brought stress, depression, anxiety, and fear in our households. Some of you have lost your jobs or had your hours reduced. Some of you are sick from COVID-19 or are caring for loved ones with and without the virus. Some don't have enough food for your families, or worry about losing your housing. And many of you are working in essential services, like healthcare, food production and distribution, sanitation works, teaching, social work, and more. This work has been hard and will continue to present challenges. While all of us want the best educational experience for our children this year, we want you keep three things in mind:

1. **Do what you can.** Your most important job this school year is to keep your child safe, healthy, and loved. If all you can manage one day is getting your child to read a book—that's okay. On another day, you may be able to sit side-by-side while your child is working, and that's wonderful. Hopefully you'll even get your high schooler to turn in all her work! Whatever you can manage in your household is okay. We will support your child's learning together as best we can. When things get back to normal—when the virus is no longer a concern—we will put in place the supports your child needs to regain confidence in their learning and get them on-track for success.
2. **Everything you do can be a learning experience.** Children of all ages can learn so much at home. Having conversations with your children every day is one of the most important ways that children learn. Reading books, magazines, articles, and graphic novels is the best thing students can do for their learning. Cooking with you can be a time to include math and measuring and weights and volume. Playing games with your children teaches strategy and planning. Reading the news together, or talking to your teenager about current events promotes critical thought and curiosity.
3. **Seek support when you need it.** Even if you think other parents and caregivers are keeping it together, they likely are feeling the same way you feel. Reach out to other parents, whether through your school, the Family and Community Engagement (FACE) office (216.838.3223), or the Cle-PLAN Facebook page. If you have a child with special needs and are feeling overwhelmed, contact our special education department (216.838.7733). If you need assistance beyond school-based issues, contact 211. If you are in crisis, and worried about your mental or physical safety or your child's mental or physical safety, contact the Ohio Mental Health crisis hotline (text 4hope to 741741).

We will get through this crisis together.

– The Reopening Planning Team



Next Steps

CMSD will release additional details and more specific guidance over the next few weeks as we prepare for the first day of school on August 24 for our year-round schools and on September 8 for the remaining schools. Principals and teachers will contact students and families with school-specific information, including dates and times for back-to-school orientation events, device and school supply distribution and information needed to prepare for a successful school year.

CMSD will continue to closely follow the guidance of local, state and federal public health officials and will adjust our Reopening Plan as public health conditions advise.

CMSD is grateful to the staff, parents, citizens and community partners who shaped and revised our Reopening Plan and will need their continued engagement as we implement the plan in an unprecedented time for our city, our nation and the world.

It will take all of us working together to make the 2020-21 school year a success for every scholar and to keep our CMSD school community healthy and safe.



Stay Connected

- Update your contact information with current cell phone numbers and email addresses to receive e-alerts, text messages and emergency notifications this year.
- Visit the CMSD website at ClevelandMetroSchools.org for all COVID-19 information and back-to-school updates.
- Like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter and Instagram to stay current with what's happening in our schools.
- Enroll today and let our CMSD enrollment specialists help you with Preschool and Kindergarten registration or with making the best school choice for the 2020-21 school year.
- Save the COVID-19 Hotline number in your contact list:
216.838.9980





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