

CARMAN-AINSWORTH COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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Eddie L. Kindle, Ed.S.
Superintendent

January 7, 2021

Dear Carman-Ainsworth Families, Students and Staff,

Thank you for your continued trust and patience as we strive to provide a safe learning environment for our students, staff, and families.

On Friday, November 13, 2020 I shared a letter regarding the schedule following winter break until at least Monday, January 25, 2021:

Instruction Schedule					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 19 Jan. 4-Jan. 8	All Students Virtual/On-line Learning Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday All Day - Wednesday Morning				
Week 20 Jan. 11-Jan. 15	All Students Virtual/On-line Learning Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday All Day - Wednesday Morning				
Week 21 Jan. 18-Jan. 22	No School MLK Day	All Students Virtual/On-line Learning Tuesday, Thursday, Friday All Day - Wednesday Morning			
Week 22 Jan. 25-Jan. 29	Anticipated Return to Hybrid Face-to-Face Instruction				

As we continue to review current data trends, beginning the week of January 25, 2021, and until further notice, Carman-Ainsworth Community Schools will move to a hybrid learning model for ALL STUDENTS, Kindergarten Prep – 12th grade. We will implement a schedule of face-to-face and virtual learning that will facilitate reduced class sizes by approximately half to allow for social distancing (this schedule will be the same as what elementary students were following in November):

- Students will be separated into two groups based on the first letter of their last name. Students with a last name beginning with the letters A through L (BLUE Group) will attend school for full days on Mondays and Tuesdays. Students with a last name beginning with the letters M through Z (GRAY Group) will attend full days at school on Thursdays and Fridays.
- Both Blue and Gray Groups will work remotely on Wednesday.
- Building principals will determine group placement for families with last names in both groups so that all students in the same family can attend on the same schedule.

Cohorts:

BLUE GROUP	GRAY GROUP
Last Name A-L	Last Name M - Z
Mondays and Tuesdays In Class Learning	Thursdays and Fridays In Class Learning
Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays Remote Learning	Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays Remote Learning

Pre-identified self-contained classes of Special Education students return **Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday (no attendance on Wednesday)**. Some special education and diagnostic services will be allowed by appointment. Families will be notified individually.

With the transfer to a hybrid schedule, we have adjusted the school start and end times as follows:

Hybrid Start & End Times		
	Start	End
CAHS	7:20 a.m.	1:30 p.m.
Atlantis High School	7:30 a.m.	1:45 p.m.
CAMS	8:15 a.m.	2:15 p.m.
Dillon Elementary	9:15 a.m.	3:05 p.m.
Dye Elementary	9:15 a.m.	3:05 p.m.
Randels Elementary	10:10 a.m.	4:00 p.m.
Rankin Elementary	10:10 a.m.	4:00 p.m.

This plan will allow teachers and students to practice safety measures prior to returning to a traditional schedule at some point in the future.

Plans for 6th and 9th grade students to familiarize themselves with the middle school and high school, respectively, are being finalized and details will be communicated next week. Parents of students who wish to switch from On-Line Learning to Virtual Learning, or the other way around, are asked to contact building principals beginning January 8 and no later than January 15. This will provide the week of January 18 to plan and make class changes prior to second semester.

Families are encouraged to check their child's temperature at home every morning; students with a temperature of 100.4 or greater should stay home. The presence of any symptoms, including cough or shortness of breath, should prompt the family to keep the student home from school. Symptomatic students who are sent home from school must be kept home until they have tested negative or have completely recovered according to Genesee County Health Department guidelines.

District transportation will be provided to resident district students only. Transportation routes will be provided on the district website. The district will provide and require the use of hand sanitizer before entering the bus. The bus driver, staff, and all students in grades K-Prep-12, if medically feasible, will wear facial coverings while on the bus. Transportation vehicles will be cleaned and disinfected before and after every transit route. Weather permitting, consideration will be given to opening windows during transit to reduce the spread of the virus by increasing air circulation, if appropriate and safe.

Please note, that this is our schedule as of right now, and we are hopeful that it will remain. We will continue to monitor the case data and positivity rates to help determine our instructional programming. *We must stress that families should be prepared for potential intermittent interruptions that may cause return to remote learning days.*

This situation is difficult. Every home is facing unique challenges and needs. Taking into consideration all of the factors surrounding the pandemic, please know the entire district is working diligently to help meet these needs, support our families, and help our students succeed. Please continue to offer our staff grace and patience to be learners themselves as we make this shift. We hope to send this grace right back to you in the days and weeks to come.

I also want to provide answers to questions our team has received:

Are face masks required?

Yes. Face masks are required for all students and staff, unless they are unable to do so for a health or developmental reason, which will be considered on a case-by-case basis. All students (K-Prep-12) will be expected to bring and wear their own face mask while on school transportation or on school property, including hallways, restrooms, and all common spaces. This is aligned with the district's guidance from the state of Michigan, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the American Academy of Pediatrics as face masks are considered by health officials to be one of the most effective tools to mitigate community spread. Any student who cannot medically tolerate a facial covering must provide signed medical documentation substantiating this claim.

What will lunch look like?

Students will not wear masks when they are eating or drinking, and as such, social distancing mandates will be followed as much as possible. Lunches will be scheduled and staggered to eliminate crowding and, if needed, schools will utilize additional building spaces as lunchrooms. Students will wear masks as they travel to and from lunch. Staff will disinfect tables between lunch periods.

What are the daily cleaning procedures?

Our custodial staff schedules are designed to ensure that each facility is thoroughly cleaned and sanitized nightly. This includes disinfecting common touch points including light switches, doors, benches, and bathrooms at least every four hours with an EPA approved disinfectant. Libraries, computer labs, and other hands-on classrooms will undergo cleaning after every class period with an EPA approved disinfectant. Student desks will be wiped down with an EPA approved disinfectant after every class period. Cleaning resources are available in each classroom to disinfect items and spaces during the day.

Building Access?

Family members or other guests will not be allowed in the school building except under extenuating circumstances determined by district and school officials. All guests approved to enter the building must complete a health screening form, must wear a facial covering, and will be provided with sanitizer upon entering. Records, including date and time, are kept of non-school employees or other visitors entering and exiting the building.

Extra-curricular Activities/Athletics?

Extra-curricular activities will be permitted to meet via Zoom and athletics will follow MDHHS orders and MHSAA requirements. Currently winter sports are on hold until January 15.

Food Distribution?

The district will continue food distribution on Mondays and Wednesdays from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at all Carman-Ainsworth school buildings, except The Learning Community and Woodland School; with an evening pick up at Carman-Ainsworth Middle School ONLY on Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Although it has taken a lot of planning and collaboration, we are excited for students to return to the classrooms. The district remains committed to every student and will continue to provide the necessary components to ensure your child will continue to learn, grow and thrive.

We are so grateful to our staff, families and community; we couldn't do this without your support. Wishing you a happy, healthy, joyful 2021.

Stay Safe. Stay Healthy. Stay CA Strong.

Please contact me with any questions.

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