

CARMAN-AINSWORTH COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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Superintendent

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Dear Carman-Ainsworth Families,

Thank you for your support as we wrap up our third week of a new year of learning! Although there are issues we are still working out, I am proud of our staff and students for their perseverance to make the most of this unique learning environment.

We continue to work diligently to implement the specific protocols that will be in place to allow our students to return to the classrooms. Our school district - along with districts across the country - is facing extremely complex challenges and decisions. As a parent myself, please know that I too have many emotions regarding the safety and education of your students. However, I hope you will remain patient and supportive as we continue to collaborate with health experts, monitor other school districts, and review feedback from families and staff, in an effort to make decisions that best support the health and safety of students and staff.

The purpose of this letter is to share information on our plan to safely and systemically return our students to the classrooms. The Carman-Ainsworth Board of Education approved our tentative next steps on Tuesday, September 15. Our dedicated instructional staff returned to the buildings on August 31 and have been working diligently to provide virtual learning. The next steps, as requested by the governor, will focus on returning our most educationally vulnerable and youngest learners to a face-to-face environment. Our tentative return to the classroom plan is as follows:

The district's goal is to transition students in a hybrid classroom environment. We will implement a schedule of face-to-face and virtual learning that will facilitate reducing class sizes by approximately half to allow for social distancing:

- 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

Schedule:

Return to the Classroom Schedule					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 5 Sept. 28-Oct. 2	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.				
Week 6 Oct. 5-Oct. 9	K-Prep – K A-L Blue	K-Prep – K A-L Blue	Remote Learning	K-Prep – K M-Z Gray	K-Prep – K M-Z Gray
Week 7 Oct. 12-Oct. 16	1 st -3 rd A-L Blue	1 st -3 rd A-L Blue	Remote Learning	1 st -3 rd M-Z Gray	1 st -3 rd M-Z Gray
Week 8 Oct. 19-Oct. 23	4 th -5 th A-L Blue	4 th -5 th A-L Blue	Remote Learning	4 th -5 th M-Z Gray	4 th -5 th M-Z Gray
Return dates for grades 6th-12th to be determined following the elementary students.					

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.

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

Families are encouraged to check their child’s temperature at home every morning using oral, tympanic, or temporal scanners; 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.

I also want to provide answers to the five most common 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.

Will my elementary student have recess?

Yes. Recess is considered to be an essential part of the day, and it will be part of the student's daily schedule. Recess will be conducted outside whenever possible with appropriate social distancing and cohorting of students. If more than one class is outside, students should wear facial coverings.

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.

Although it has taken a lot of planning and collaboration, we are excited for students to return to the classrooms. I know that when we work together, we can do anything, including making this the best year possible for your kids and for your family. Thanks for all you do. Thanks for all your support. Thanks for working together and growing together; together we will all succeed.

Stay Safe. Stay Healthy. Stay CA Strong.

Please contact me with any questions.

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Superintendent of Schools

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