



ANTIOCH SCHOOL DISTRICT 34

Inspiring personal excellence.

Dr. Bradford Hubbard, Superintendent

Antioch CCSD 34 Staff and Families,

Since March 13, when the COVID-19 global pandemic halted in-person instruction in Antioch CCSD 34, the Board of Education, Administration, and Staff have been working collaboratively and diligently to make difficult but necessary decisions in the best interest of our students and families. Tonight, we collectively reach out to provide you with an update regarding our plans for the start of the 2020-21 school year.

In examining all the guidance, carefully considering a plethora of options, developing detailed educational and logistical plans, monitoring a variety of local, state, and national health-related data points, and working in close consultation with districts locally and across the county, we believe we have done our due diligence in keeping student and staff safety at the forefront of our planning. At the same time, we have been committed to a plan that is focused on the social-emotional, mental health, and educational wellness of our students.

While we do not believe there is a sufficient substitute for the positive and educational impact our staff has on and with our students when they are working together, in person; there are a number of indices and restrictions that are making this reality increasingly difficult to realize.

As local, state, and national metrics show a resurgence of the virus and instability associated with its spread, we continue to seek scientific and medical professional input into our decisions. As recent as last Friday, in communication with the Lake County Health Department and its Executive Director, we learned about updated guidance regarding quarantining protocols, social distancing expectations, contact tracing practices, and the processes for students and staff that present with any one of the [COVID-19 symptoms](#). Along with all the other recommendations, guidance, and mandates dictating the parameters under which we are able to return to in-person learning, we have determined that doing so to start the 2020-2021 school year would be substantially disrupted and unstable.

At this point, Antioch CCSD 34 is going to begin the 2020-2021 school year with Remote Learning 2.0. This new, improved, and interactive method of distance learning will afford us the continuity of service and instruction that we do not believe is currently possible in an in-person learning model. The detailed and specific Antioch CCSD 34 Remote Learning 2.0 plan will be presented and adopted by the Board of Education at a Special Meeting of the Board on Tuesday, August 4. After that meeting, the plans will be posted on our website and distributed to all staff and families.

Please know this is not how we envisioned having to kick off this coming school year. However, we are committed to the safety and health of our students and staff, in addition to our families and community. We have seen the potentially devastating and disruptive impact of outbreaks and want to minimize this risk at the outset of the year. Our plan includes closely monitoring a variety of metrics related to the virus and regularly reevaluating our reality. Over time, we aim to implement a transition plan that would allow us to phase in options related to in-person services and learning. Additional, detailed planning associated with this will be forthcoming.

For now, please know that Remote Learning 2.0 will focus on providing synchronous (real-time) learning, social-emotional support, opportunities for relationships and connections to be forged, grading and feedback on work, and student support. We plan to take what was learned during the Spring and the feedback that so many provided to inform this improved experience for us all.

We know Remote Learning creates an unanticipated and challenging burden on many families. Please know that we stand ready to help families navigate connectivity and WiFi issues and we are evaluating and anticipate adjustments to our student fees. We also plan to have Remote Learning Student Supervision Center(s) established as a limited-seat option for families with an identified need to ensure their student(s) has/have access to a supervised location for remote learning (an application will be forthcoming). Finally,

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Antioch, IL 60002
847-838-8401

Mary Kay McNeill Early Learning Center

817 N. Main Street
Antioch, IL 60002
847-838-8901

Hillcrest Elementary School

433 E. Depot Street
Antioch, IL 60002
847-838-8001

Oakland Elementary School

818 E. Grass Lake Road
Lake Villa, IL 60046
847-838-8601

W.C. Petty Elementary School

850 Highview Drive
Antioch, IL 60002
847-838-8101

Antioch Upper Grade School

800 Highview Drive
Antioch, IL 60002
847-838-8301

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we are in communication with an outside provider (Champions) to offer childcare, supervision, and programming outside of our school day. While this will not be easy, know that we are partners in this and commit to helping mitigate concerns associated with Remote Learning.

When it is prudent, safe, and practical, we will begin the transition to in-person learning. This will be announced at least two weeks in advance of any learning model or format change. Additionally, it will be accompanied by detailed plans associated with what the in-person experience will include and require.

This decision has not been reached lightly. We greatly miss our students and look forward to the days where we can all be together in our learning spaces. With that said, the reality of considering the disjointed and uncomfortable experience of in-person learning to start the year, while weighing the potential risks associated with that format, leads us to believe it is not what is in the best interest of our students and staff.

We are deeply sorry for the disappointment and frustration this announcement may cause. None of us ever thought we would find ourselves in a position of making this call; however, each of us stands ready to do this right and well. This school year will certainly look and feel different, but just like any other year, we aim to make it our best yet.

Again, details of the Remote Learning 2.0 plan will be shared at the Special Meeting of the Antioch CCSD 34 Board of Education on Tuesday, August 4 at 6:30 p.m. After that meeting, all documents will be publicly shared and posted. While we are certain this announcement raises many questions, our hope is to ensure our presentation and subsequent communication addresses as many items as possible. Know that we will update the FAQ document that we have started and will share that important resource once the details of the plan have been communicated. The FAQ document will be updated regularly.

Additionally, communication regarding a back-to-school virtual meet-and-greet event will be forthcoming.

If you have any questions, please contact a building administrator, a district administrator, or Dr. Bradford Hubbard.

Yours in Education,

Antioch CCSD 34 Administration
Antioch CCSD 34 Board of Education
Antioch Elementary Education Association (AEEA) - Co-Presidents
Antioch Support Professionals Association (ASP) - President and Vice President