



# ANTIOCH SCHOOL DISTRICT 34

Inspiring personal excellence.

Dr. Bradford Hubbard, Superintendent

Antioch CCSD 34 Families,

I hope this email finds you healthy, safe, and well. I apologize for having to keep interrupting your summer with these communications, however, please know that we are focused on transparency and inclusivity in our planning. Your input, voice, and perspective are invaluable.

In reading through the many, many emails I have received from families and staff members regarding the start of the school year, I absolutely hear the sense of urgency surrounding a final decision. Please know you are not alone in your questions, doubts, fears, frustrations, or confusion. I assure you that we are working to collectively get to an answer, and communicate that answer, as soon as possible.

While I commit to making every attempt to individually respond to those that took the time to reach out to me, in the interest of time and transparency, I want to write to everyone now.

On Tuesday night, I presented this [Reopening Update](#) to the Antioch CCSD 34 Board of Education. If you were not able to make the virtual meeting, please [click here](#) to view the entire presentation and an explanation of each slide.

Originally, we had looked to make this presentation the unveiling of our reopening plan. Late last week, it was decided that we would make this an informational update regarding our planning process and progress. Given the changing landscape both locally and nationally, we are focused on developing and sharing a plan that we are confident in and one that we know we can implement with fidelity. We have seen the planning and some of the formal plans in other districts change, shift, and evolve. While that may be unavoidable in the end, we are hoping to decrease confusion by attempting to avoid having to change plans as we learn more and receive additional information.

Therefore, we made no formal recommendation on Tuesday. Rather, we tried to be transparent with where we were, what we know, what we don't know, and where we need to get to. *We know the clock is ticking and everyone is waiting on our decisions.* With that said, we do not want to, nor can we afford to get this wrong from a student and staff wellness and safety standpoint.

In choosing our reopening plan, there are many competing considerations and priorities. First and foremost, is the wellness and safety of our students and staff. Our plan is to implement as many precautions as we determine feasible, practical, and acceptable in returning to our buildings. We want to carefully consider the guidance and implement, to the extent possible, everything we can to mitigate risk and the transmission of this relentless virus. At the same time, we are looking at the social-emotional needs of our students and staff, in addition to, the academic impact of our decisions and planning, knowing those decisions and plans impact families, childcare, and a plethora of other aspects of our lives. All together, these intentional considerations help to inform and pave the path forward.

Many of you have reached out and been vulnerable in sharing your stories, situations, and reservations. Those are deeply important to me. Know that I have read every word and we are considering every suggestion. For those I have not gotten back to, I am trying to respond as I am able. Additionally, we have compiled a list of frequently asked questions and will ensure that every inquiry is either clearly addressed in our planning documents or on an FAQ that will be updated, as needed.

## Antioch School District 34

964 Spafford Street  
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

[www.antioch34.com](http://www.antioch34.com)

In my presentation to the Board, I attempted to be very honest with our reality and the uncertainty still baked into these decisions. As suggested in the guidance and from what we know about the profound impact our staff has on students with whom they build genuine and strong relationships, returning to full in-person instruction is certainly our end goal. If it cannot be done safely, we stand ready to unleash our collective capacity to implement the next best option, or the next best option after that. Together, we will get to a better place.

We are actively working on detailed plans regarding the logistics associated with a return to in-person learning. Additionally, we are finalizing a draft of a Remote Learning 2.0 plan that will add to the wonderful foundation we built in the Spring. Just this afternoon, the Illinois State Board of Education released its much anticipated [Fall 2020 Learning Recommendations](#). We have a team working right now to dissect this 101-page document and ensure our plan takes these recommendations into account.

Regardless of what our final plan entails, we will have detailed, concise, and digestible documents and communications to make sure everyone is on the same page. Truthfully, our reality this year might be ebbing and flowing in between a few plans and models. What will see us through these challenges is your partnership and the community-wide grace we afford ourselves in navigating these uncharted waters.

***As of right now, we stand ready to share a communication no later than Tuesday of next week (July 28), announcing our final reopening options. From that announcement, we will schedule a Board of Education meeting the week of August 3 to share the detailed plans associated with those options. Our hope is that with Tuesdays announcement, we will allow students, families, and staff to begin preparing for the start of the 2020-21 school year.***

In the end, I am confident what we decide will be what is best and right. It will not be perfect, but it will be what WE developed, knowing what we know, with the right priorities in place, and given our context and our reality. Your continued support and partnership are critical and appreciated. I am grateful for each of you and the grace you have afforded us and me in this process.

The responsibility we have and the weight of these decisions do not fall lightly on any of us. Your confidence and trust are what we are trying to earn and maintain.

If you have any questions, please let a building administrator, a district administrator, or me know.

Be and stay well,

Dr. Bradford Hubbard  
Superintendent

