



# ANTIOCH SCHOOL DISTRICT 34

Inspiring personal excellence.

Dr. Bradford Hubbard, Superintendent

**NOTE: There is an important survey at the end of this letter. That survey will also be sent out via email and text by itself. Please submit your survey by 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, July 15.**

Dear Antioch Community Consolidated School District 34 Families,

As we have crossed into July, our team is actively planning for the 2020-21 School Year. The D34 Task Force continues to meet and analyze a variety of options. In the end, our goal is to design and implement a return to learning plan that maximizes learning opportunities, includes as many safety protocols as possible, remains flexible in a fluid reality, and is logistically and financially sustainable.

Nothing will replace the power and impact of in-person learning. We know that our students working directly with our staff is the best formula to facilitate a high quality education. With that said, safety and wellbeing is and will always be our top priority.

The District has been monitoring and working to include as many voices and informational resources as possible in its planning. Some of these sources of critical input conflict with one another. We are committed to the development of a plan that strongly considers all the information we are being provided, yet fits our situation, takes into account our reality, and adheres to the requirements we have received from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH).

In general, our goals are focused on the following:

- Maintaining the health and safety of students, staff, and our community;
- Delivering a coherent instructional model for each grade and each student, prioritizing in-person learning where possible;
- Creating a system that is flexible and robust enough to withstand rapid changes in a fluid reality;
- Implementing and monitoring best practice health precautions to limit exposure to and implications of a global pandemic, attempting to prioritize safety and wellness, while working to avoid having to close schools; and
- Remaining cognizant of and focused on the social, emotional, and mental needs, wellness, and health of our students and staff.

**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

In the [Joint Guidance](#) released by the Illinois State Board of Education on June 23, 2020, [www.antioch34.com](http://www.antioch34.com) it states:

[Executive Order 2020-40](#), filed on June 4, 2020, allowed schools to reopen for in-person instruction in Phase 3. In-person instruction is strongly encouraged in Phase 4; however, it is critical to note that this does not signify a return to pre-pandemic operations. Appropriate social distancing, face coverings, enhanced sanitation measures, and other accommodations will be necessary to ensure the safety of students, staff, and their families. During Phase 4, IDPH guidelines will:

- *Require use of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including face coverings;*
- *Prohibit more than 50 individuals from gathering in one space;*
- *Require social distancing be observed, as much as possible;*
- *Require that schools conduct symptom screenings and temperature checks or require that individuals self-certify that they are free of symptoms before entering school buildings; and*
- *Require an increase in schoolwide cleaning and disinfection.*

*All public and nonpublic schools in Illinois serving prekindergarten through 12th grade students must follow these guidelines. It is important to note that these requirements are subject to change pursuant to updated public health guidance and changing public health conditions.*

Our planning does include adherence to the measures outlined above, while considering additional recommendations, such as accessing outdoor spaces to provide breaks from face coverings and controlling the flow of traffic in our hallways. Additional information is being learned and considered regarding symptom screening and/or certification. As conditions and recommendations change, we will continue considering what we believe to be best and implementing, *to the extent possible*, what the guidance from ISBE and IDPH suggests and requires.

Again, we want to return to full in-person learning as soon as practically possible. Until we believe that to be prudent and our reality, we are writing to share a couple of options we are considering and we are seeking your input via a survey. **In the absence of a full return to school, we will likely have two options for families to begin school in the Fall; one blended model and one remote learning model.** Options that we are considering are taking many factors into account; including, but not limited to, frequency and length of in-person learning time, social-emotional support and wellness, safety precautions, social distancing efforts, length of time with face coverings on, disinfecting and cleaning protocols, impact on families, transportation, academic needs and best practices, and overall safety.

### **Full In-Person Learning**

To the extent possible, this plan will return students and staff to in-person learning, while adhering to protocols and guidance associated with safety and wellness. Until

further notice, this will include face coverings, social distancing measures, cleaning and disinfecting protocols, and symptom monitoring.

### **Blended Option 1 - AM/PM Attendance**

Maximizing the frequency students are with our staff, practicing social distancing, and limiting the amount of time in a day students are wearing a face covering, this option creates an a.m. and p.m. model of blended learning. In a given day, approximately 50% of students will attend school in the morning and continue learning activities remotely in the afternoon. The other 50% of students will engage in remote learning in the morning and attend school in the afternoon. Meals will be available and the buildings will be disinfected between sessions. This model places a strong strain on our transportation capabilities, thus the survey question about family-provided transportation.

### **Blended Option 2 - A/B Full Day Attendance**

Maximizing the length of in-class time on a given day and keeping time and space between two cohorts of students, this option creates an A and B group with approximately 50% of students in each. Depending on a to-be-determined rotation, students will either be in-person or remote learning on an alternating basis. Lunch will be served on the days of attendance and buildings will be disinfected and cleaned between days.

### **Remote Learning**

Remote Learning - Remote Learning 2.0 will look and feel different than what it did in the Spring. This will include elements of synchronous and asynchronous learning opportunities (specifically scheduled 'class time' and self-paced activities/assignments), feedback and grading being key parts of the experience, mandatory 5-hours of instruction/learning each day, and efforts made to move forward in curriculum sequencing and pacing. We will be using forthcoming ISBE recommendations for Remote Learning 2.0 to enhance and build upon the foundation for this type of learning and instruction that we first saw in the Spring.

We fully understand that ideal conditions have us returning fully in-person as soon and as frequently as possible. Depending on survey feedback, additional guidance, and logistical feasibility of the models above, further details will be shared about and developed for the model(s) that best meets the needs of our stakeholders. We will try to prioritize in-person learning for students with additional needs, therefore, some individual schedules may be adjusted as needed.

Please know that the reality in our local schools (conditions, space, staffing, needs, students, etc.) is unique. We have been in regular contact with our area districts and we have worked very closely in our planning, specifically with CHSD117, as we know families have students in both districts. The individuality of our situations does impact our ability to mirror one another in our planning, at times. With that said, we will

continue to work to coordinate, collaborate, and plan together, as our area districts are wonderful partners and resources.

Finally, please fill out this [D34 Return to School 2020 Parent Survey](#) to share your preliminary preferences for the models, as presented. Your voice, input, and perspective are extremely important to us. Additionally, your trust, flexibility, understanding, and partnership are critical and appreciated.

As information becomes available and as the rapidly evolving conditions change, we commit to being transparent in our communication and planning.

If you have questions, please contact a building or district administrator.

Stay well, healthy, and safe.

We love and miss you, all,

Dr. Bradford Hubbard  
Superintendent