



ANTIOCH SCHOOL DISTRICT 34

Inspiring personal excellence.

Dr. Bradford Hubbard, Superintendent

Dear Antioch CCSD 34 Families and Staff,

We hope you and your family are well, healthy, and safe. We understand the beginning of this school year has not been traditional, however, we want to recognize and thank the amazing lengths that our entire learning community has gone to in order to make our current reality the best it can be. Through the Thought Exchange, we have learned a lot about the experiences of our students, staff, and families. This feedback helps us examine our practices and make adjustments when and where necessary. We know Remote Learning is not easy, but please know that your partnership and trust are invaluable.

While we continue to evaluate our Remote Learning 2.0 plan, we have a team that is working diligently to prepare our facilities and ourselves for a return to in-person, on-site learning as soon as it is safe and logistically feasible to do so. We continue to monitor a number of different metrics and we are working to build a data dashboard that will allow us to monitor health data, in addition to, data tied to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) availability, staffing levels, space allocation and configuration, and transportation considerations in determining our capacity to return. The three main health data sources we are currently keeping close tabs on are the [Lake County School Decision Dashboard](#) (LCHD), the [Illinois Regional COVID-19 Resurgence Criteria](#) (IDPH), and the [County Level COVID-19 Risk Metrics](#) (IDPH).

Additional information is being collected and monitored with respect to our current and necessary staffing realities/needs, PPE supplies, space setups, transportation procedures, and all the logistics that come with entering, moving about, and implementing guidelines in our school facilities. We have created a set of slides that articulates and shows photos of the various measures the district has implemented in our buildings and we are creating plans and videos that will show what a return to school will look and feel like. Along with any announcement of a return-to-learning plan, we will release this important information so everyone can see how we have prepared for the return and will know what to expect from the in-person experience.

There are many guidelines and recommendations for us to follow in creating a return plan. They are aimed at mitigating as much risk as possible for our students and our staff. We are committed to implementing guidance with fidelity and in doing so, we are presented with a number of logistical considerations. We know some schools have returned and we continue to work with local and national leaders, health professionals, and vendors in creating the best learning environment for our context here in Antioch CCSD 34. Specifically, right now, we are awaiting the delivery of some additional PPE, as we had to return a shipment two weeks ago after we received a recall on a necessary item. Additionally, we are actively evaluating our staffing and preparing our learning spaces to ensure compliance with the standards of operation in the face of the pandemic.

This communication is to let you know what our current reality is and let you know that we are actively preparing for a gradual phase-in of our students for in-person learning opportunities. We are currently looking toward a date in the middle of October to potentially bring back some of our specialized and self-contained special education programming. From there, we are working to map out a phased plan that would begin to incorporate additional

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**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**

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grade-levels in a hybrid model. We are keeping a close eye on our earliest learners and our students that need the greatest support, however, we are diligently working to provide all of our students on-site opportunities, as soon as it is safe and feasible to do so.

There are many logistical and practical implications of the phase-in model and any kind of hybrid model we implement. At this point we have not explicitly identified the various phases, attached dates to when those in each phase would come back, or selected which hybrid model we will ultimately utilize. Details will be forthcoming as final decisions are made and plans are finalized. These plans will include what in-person, synchronous, and asynchronous instruction all look like and will entail in the hybrid model. Through a future survey, families will be able to opt into our in-person/hybrid plan or continue in a remote-only environment.

The honest reality is that we want our students and our staff back in our classrooms and we know many families want and need their students back, as well. Again, we know this has not been easy on anyone. We remain committed to serving this community to the best of our ability. We must all be taking the steps to mitigate risks and we cannot stress enough the importance of the 3 W's: washing hands, watching distance (6ft), and wearing masks. We are in this together and by doing it together, we will again be afforded the opportunity to not only gradually open our classrooms, but do so in a manner that will allow them to remain open.

In the coming 7-14 days, be on the lookout for an announcement regarding our next steps of phasing students back into the buildings. Additionally, you will see detailed updates on the strategies we have employed and steps we have taken in order to be able to do this while mitigating as much risk as possible. Our team takes this work incredibly seriously and wants to make sure we are doing right by, for, and with our students, staff, and families.

Again, we greatly appreciate your partnership, understanding, trust, and remarkably hard work. We miss you, appreciate you, and look forward to seeing you all soon.

Sincerely,

Dr. Bradford Hubbard
Superintendent