



THOMAS | GREENBRIER | IVY HILL | OLIVE | PATTON  
SOUTH | DRYDEN | WESTGATE | WINDSOR

Friday, September 4, 2020

Dear AHSD25 Staff and Families:

Congratulations on a successful first week of school! Every year, the first week brings some operational hiccups along with a great excitement. This year proved to follow in the same path. There were some technological glitches, but together we addressed them very quickly. And there was noticeable excitement from staff and students. It is amazing that even in this unusual environment, personal connections were made and learning began.

As we move forward with the school year, we are focused on providing an exceptional experience during remote learning, while working hard towards transitioning more of our students to in-person learning. We started the school year with 256 students from our instructional IEP programs invited to learn on-site which represents 4.7% of our student population.

### Transition to In-Person Learning

A Transition Advisory Committee has been formed. This group consists of 5 teachers, 2 support staff members, 4 administrators, 2 Board of Education members, 8 parents (including a pediatrician) and 1 school nurse. The committee has already met to discuss the metrics and process we will use to transition our students back to in-person learning. We have utilized many resources to do our work together including the Illinois Department of Public Health, Cook County Department of Public Health, Harvard Global Health Institute, and the Northern Illinois Public Health Consortium.

There is still a lot to determine, but we expect to have final information to share with families next week. At that time, we will share the metrics as well as where families can view the same data that we are monitoring.

As of today, the following decisions have been made:

- We will transition students back to school in the following order:
  - Students in Instructional IEP programs (already attending)
  - Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> graders
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> graders
  - 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders



## SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE

- The following dates will be utilized:

### **Announce Decision to D25 Community**

Friday, September 11  
Friday, October 2  
Friday, October 23  
Friday, November 6  
Friday, December 4

### **Possible Transition Date**

Monday, September 21  
Monday, October 12  
Monday, November 2  
Monday, November 16  
Monday, December 14

Families will continue to have the ability to choose Remote Learning even when we are bringing students back to in-person learning. Starting next week, we will be surveying families to determine if you will be sending your students to in-person learning when we begin that transition or if you will be continuing your student's enrollment in distance learning.

### Various Additional Items

#### **Childcare**

I am very thankful to the Arlington Heights Park District and School District 214 for providing childcare during Remote Learning. The Park District is hosting approximately 35 students split between a program at South Middle School and a program at Olive Mary Stitt Elementary School. District 214 currently has under 10 students at their Forest View site. I appreciate both organizations answering the request of parents for childcare options.

#### **Cross Country**

South Middle School and Thomas Middle School will begin to host on-site practices for our Cross-Country Teams. They will follow the required safety protocol for social distancing and temperature checks, as well as adhere to the IESA guidelines. Though the season will be very different from a typical year, I'm thrilled that our students will get some opportunity to practice and possibly compete.

#### **Food Distribution**

We are thrilled to be able to continue to provide meals for anyone under the age of 18. If you or someone you know needs support with food insecurity, come to Thomas Middle School on Wednesdays between 8:10 am - 9:10 am or 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm. We are providing 7 days of breakfast and 7 days of lunch at each food distribution session. All you need to do is drive-thru, and we will load the items into your car.

For more information on this, please visit [www.sd25.org/RemoteFood](http://www.sd25.org/RemoteFood).

#### **COVID-19 Information**

If a member of your family has any symptom related to COVID-19, all family members need to quarantine unless a doctor provides an alternate diagnosis or the individual tests negative. If a student attending school is sent home due to a COVID-19 symptom, all siblings in other schools must also go home.



## SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE

District 25 staff members are working on-site except where accommodations are legally required. From time to time, however, staff members may transition to working remotely if they have to quarantine due to possible exposure to a COVID-19 case.

### **Calendar**

Please mark your calendars that there is no school on Monday, September 7<sup>th</sup> nor on Monday, September 28<sup>th</sup>.

### Thank You

Thank you to our District 25 families for all that you are doing to support your children during this unusual school experience. Our teachers and administrators truly appreciate your extra support this fall. We are so thankful to partner with you to make this a successful school year for all of our students.

Please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

Lori D. Bein, Ed.D.  
Superintendent