
LAKE VILLA COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT #41

131 McKinley Avenue, Lake Villa, Illinois 60046-8986 www.district41.org Phone: 847/356-2385 Fax: 847/356-2670

May 20, 2020

Dear Lake Villa 41 Parents and Guardians,

As we wind down this most unusual school year, I'd like to thank our families for their patience, flexibility, and resilience under extremely challenging circumstances. Since we left the physical buildings mid-March, our goals have been to keep our staff and students safe and move instruction forward. However, it's time to consider what school may look like next year. Please allow me to address some of the thoughts, concerns, and questions under consideration as we plan for 2020/21.

Of course we are all anxious to know what school will look like next year. However, we still have many unanswered questions due to the unpredictability of the public health situation. Our administration is currently immersed in newly published re-opening documents from the [Centers for Disease Control](#), the [Illinois Department of Public Health](#), the [Illinois State Board of Education](#), and guidance from [other professional organizations](#).

We know any decisions we make now will need to be adjusted based on the path of the virus and decisions made at the state level.

As always, our mission is to provide relevant, engaging, and authentic learning for all of our students. That being said, the health and safety of our students and staff remains our top priority. With these principles in mind, our administrative team envisions three general possibilities for the start of the 2020/21 school year:

1. **Remote Learning** - instruction takes place via an improved version of our current online model
2. **A Hybrid Model** - a mixture of face to face instruction and Remote Learning.
3. **Face to Face Instruction** - instruction takes place at school while incorporating health safeguards such as the wearing of masks, limiting the size of groups, and physical distancing

The quality of learning for students during this crisis has not been equal to in-person learning. We know this. We are working to make sure that we use the reflective observation and input of our teachers, administrators, and community to improve our in-person schooling, our health focus, and our Remote Learning to focus on the best and most impactful learning and teaching.

I am deeply grateful to our teachers, support staff, administrators, board members, and parents for the massive efforts demonstrated during this public health crisis that caused a complete and total upheaval to education. While I am extremely proud of what we were able to accomplish, we know that the remote learning model we built during this emergency is not what we would have designed under more ideal circumstances. Our staff will work this summer to adjust our model by processing feedback from teachers, parents, and students.

Right now, there are many more questions than answers. Guidance from the state level continues to evolve. In developing the best model for District 41 students and staff for 2020/21 school year, here are a just few of the questions we are working through:

- When is it reasonable for our schools to be safely open as normal? As the pandemic situation evolves, what are health and safety protocols that need to be instituted? What are our plans for securing cleaning and safety supplies?

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- What modifications should be made to safely open our schools, and is it possible for our schools to make those modifications?
- How will we ensure an academic environment in which all students can succeed while maintaining academic integrity?
- How will we address “learning loss”, or potential knowledge gaps from the previous grade level?
- How will we address the social and emotional needs of staff, students, and families in this challenging time?
- What if some students or staff do not feel safe in returning to school?
- How will we ensure that extra-curricular and co-curricular activities – such as clubs, student organizations, and sports – are both safe and meaningful?

Again, these are a few of the questions we are currently considering. We are eager to open, but we don't want to make false promises. Health and safety must be our top priority and consideration. As of right now, the reopening of schools will be handled on a regional basis following Governor Pritzker's [five phase plan](#). Our region, which includes Chicago, must reach phase four of the plan for schools to reopen. Hopefully this summer will allow us time for that to happen.

In the upcoming weeks, parents and staff can expect to see surveys regarding a multitude of items pertaining to the start of school in the fall. This input is vital to our ability to put together the best plan possible for our students. Right now, we need to finish the year as strong as we can so we are in a better place for the fall learning -whatever form that takes.

We know that the past few months have been challenging. Our students, staff, and families continue to be in our thoughts as we collectively experience this pandemic. We are stronger when we work together and appreciate the support, care, and attention that our staff and you have provided our students during this difficult time.

Sincerely,



Dr. Lynette Zimmer
Superintendent