



WOOD RIVER-HARTFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT # 15

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Patrick Anderson
Superintendent

Natalie Bouillon
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Dear Parents and Staff:

Over the last few months, the district has worked to thoroughly review the guidance for reopening schools published by multiple agencies including the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), and the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). Through conversations with parents, support staff, teachers, administrators, and board members, along with feedback provided from parents through online surveys, the district has developed a plan for a return to in-person learning in August that includes the following highlights:

- 5 days per week of in-person learning for all students;
- August 19th, first day of student attendance;
- Half days of attendance August 19th-21st (8:30am-11:30am);
- 8:00am-1:30pm school day beginning August 24th for Kindergarten through 8th grade;
- PreK Students begin August 24th. (Morning Session 8:15am-10:15am, Afternoon Session 11:15am-1:15pm)
- Transportation for Kindergarten through 8th grade students who meet the state eligibility requirements (reside 1.5 miles from their school building);
- Optional remote learning offering for students with health and safety concerns;
- Social distancing and limited mixing of groups, when possible;
- Symptoms screenings prior to bus or building entry every day;
- Mandatory mask requirement for all students and staff (per ISBE requirement)

It is important to keep in mind that the guidelines set forth for schools to follow continue to change daily in response to new information learned regarding the transmission of the COVID-19 virus. As a result, elements in this plan may change as we approach the start of the school year in August, and even once school begins in the fall. Through our planning efforts this summer, all decisions were made with the safety of our students and staff as the highest priority. As guidelines change and adjustments must be made, we will continue to use safety as our guiding principle and top priority.

We know you will have additional questions, and are working to finalize a comprehensive **Phase 4 In-Person Learning Plan** document that will have detailed information about the changes to school operations as we continue to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. It will be released to the public as soon as possible. In addition to creating a plan for in-person learning and optional remote learning while our region is in Phase 4, the Illinois State Board of Education has also required the creation of a **Remote Learning Plan** to be utilized in the event that school buildings are ordered to close. The district is currently awaiting the release of ISBE guidance on what remote learning expectations will be for the fall, as we are aware the guidelines we were operating under in the spring will be significantly different. Additionally, the district is preparing a third option for a **Hybrid** approach to learning in the event class size restrictions are enacted by ISBE and the IDPH. Additional details about this plan will be forthcoming as we receive more information about the expectations.

Thank you for your patience as we work to develop the safest plan possible to return our students to their learning environments,

Dr. Patrick Anderson
Superintendent

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