



Onaway Area Community School



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Working together to prepare students for life.

Go Cardinals!!

July 15, 2020

Dear Onaway School Parents /Guardians,

I hope that all of your families are doing well and everyone is able to take some time this summer to enjoy life.

With the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year fast approaching, we are working hard to determine what things will look like for our students when school starts. It is our intention to start School on August 25 but as we have all come to realize, our plans can change to no fault of our own.

We are in the process of developing our required Preparedness Plans as directed by Governor Whitmer's Executive Order #2020-142. Both the Executive Order and the MI Safe School's 2020-2021 Return to School Roadmap provides guidance on what school might look like when we return in the Fall.

As you may or may not be aware, the Executive Order requires us to prepare three plans, (one for phases 1-3, 4, and 5) depending upon which phase we are in according to the MI Safe Start Map. Our plans for these phases must follow the following guidelines outlined below.

Phases 1-3

Online instruction only. No in-person instruction. School grounds are closed.

Phase 4

In-person instruction is permissible. In-person programs at school utilize high levels of safety protocols.

Phase 5

In-person instruction is permissible with moderate levels of safety protocols. Various protocols and personal protective equipment continue to be utilized.

Phase 6

Full -time, in person instruction resumes with minimal to no restrictions.

While our region is currently in Phase 5, we are not able to predict where we will be once school is ready to start. Our goal is to start the school year with as many safety precautions as possible to not just meet compliance measures, but also in order to protect students and staff and keep everyone as safe as possible.



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One of the largest changes impacting students will be limiting students to interacting with only their cohort or class. In following guidelines from both the governor and the CDC we will be limiting large gatherings as much as possible. Students will more than likely be eating both breakfast and lunch in their classrooms or with only their class in the cafeteria.

These requirements mean student drop off and pick up will also look different this year. It was with great reluctance the Board of Education made the decision to eliminate the Before/After School Program. Both the nature of the large gathering of multiple cohorts in the program as well as the lack of necessary funding led to this decision.

We will be adding significantly to our nightly and daily cleaning and disinfecting. We have purchased additional equipment and are in the process of securing the necessary protective equipment to handle these procedures correctly.

We will have much more information coming out in the next few weeks as we get deeper into developing our plans and we will try to keep everyone informed during the process.

Please understand that we are doing what is necessary to try and protect everyone. We will continue to treat everyone with fairness and grace as we have done in the past and will continue to do so in the future. We understand this school year will have its hurdles, but new changes may prove challenging for students to embrace. However, how you model these changes at home will have a significant impact on your students success.

If anyone has any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out. While we may not have the answers right away, we will strive to come up with them as best we can.

Take care,

Rod Fullerton