



CENTRAL UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Thomas Addington, M.A., Superintendent

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July 16, 2020

Dear Families, Community members, Staff, and Friends,

As you know, concerns and questions continue related to how our schools will return in August 2020. Most certainly, school will not look like it has in the past. The District is hard at work in developing vibrant and enriching educational options. While the ultimate desire is to return to school with onsite learning along with enhanced safety and cleaning procedures, in the District plan, a parental option of virtual learning is also offered. While these two options presently are the District path, we also know that it is important to remain proactive and prepared to quickly pivot during these ever-changing times if circumstances change.

The District focus continues to center on ensuring that daily:

- every child is finding a way to feel connected
- every child is being challenged by new learnings and experiences
- and every child knows they have a support where they can turn

On Monday evening (July 13, 2020), the District Reopening Presentation was provided to the CUESD School Board. The presentation is included here.

The recent survey information sent to our families was just that, a survey. The District, as you can appreciate, is balancing multiple factors ... student learning needs, employee association needs, parental needs, and ultimately safety for all involved with our students' education. This survey was not a finality in your decision, but instead provides the District and the Board with a 'pulse' on our community feelings.

Undoubtedly, everyone can appreciate that there will be strong opinions on all sides regarding the physical return of students to schools. This is understood and empathized by the School Board and the Administration. The goal of the Board and District is to provide the best instruction for all of our students to optimize learning, regardless of the educational setting. The District plans, however, must remain flexible, based on updates from our local public health officials, and any new directives from the state. There continue to be many changes, almost hourly, that may affect the goal of the District's plans.

The presentation overview attached provided the board the two options for the 2020-21 school year, one with an onsite learning model and the other in an on-line virtual model.

Detailed aspects of the plans are still being finalized; however, the general guidance is included within the Board presentation. This plan has also been developed in concert with the Kings County Public Health Department to ensure compliance oversight from this agency.

Please note that all plans are dependent upon the containment of COVID-19 as guided by the Kings County Public Health Department.

For onsite learning, the specific details regarding school day procedures and ways to prepare for the upcoming school year will be available when site administrators return from their summer break. General guidance and expectations have been developed at the District level. However, within the District, one size or plan is unattainable due to each site's unique characteristics regarding entry, exit, classroom spacing, and meal service provision. Likewise, the expectations for students with virtual learning will be detailed within the next weeks.

In closing, each family situation is uniquely different. The Board and District fully understand your varied concerns about health and safety, distance learning, the importance of face-to-face instruction, parents needing to work, the economy, and the other unexpected consequences of not being in school or being in school. Your understanding of the present situation and the decisions to be made are much appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Thomas Addington', written in black ink.

Thomas Addington,
Superintendent