



DCG Families,

The school board held a work session on Monday, October 12 and a special board meeting this morning to decide to revise our current learning model. The board voted 5-2 in favor of returning to a five days a week learning model with the option of online learning with a DCG teacher. Families that have chosen Edmentum will continue learning in that model. All students will be returning onsite on Wednesday, November 11th. November 9th and 10th all students will be remote learning to prepare for the transition.

Board Decision

At the board work session and the special meeting, the board reviewed the Hybrid and Onsite learning models, discussed staffing and health and quarantine data. Since before the start of the school year the board has also reviewed hundreds of emails from parents, staff members and students regarding their learning experiences.

Why Now

Low cases and quarantine count across the district, played a large factor in the decision to make a change in learning models now versus the semester. In addition, the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) changing their mask and quarantine guidelines for schools played a role. The new guidelines set forth by IDPH state; close contact of COVID-19 positive cases will no longer need to be quarantined for 14 days if a face covering was worn consistently and correctly by the positive case and close contacts. The positive case must isolate. The close contacts should self-monitor.

Mitigation

Masks continued to be required for all students and staff. Staff members may still be in a face shield for instructional purposes when 6 feet of social distancing can be met. Neck gaiters are not allowed for students or staff. If your child does not have a face mask one will be provided. We will continue to disinfect frequently, and practice social distancing when possible.

Block scheduling will continue for grades 8-12.

Buildings will remain closed to parents and the general public during school hours.

Enrollment Canvas

With the board's action you have the opportunity to change learning models. Please complete this Google Form for each of your children by 5:00 pm Friday, October 16th. If you do not complete this form for each of your children, you will be contacted by someone in the district. Families that are learning through Edmentum do not need to fill out this form. This information is very important to gather so we can determine schedules, class sizes, homeroom teachers/advisors and staffing. Based on this information students may have adjustments to what their schedule is currently, who their teacher(s)/advisor is/are and class size may look different.

Early Outs

Every Wednesday 1 pm early dismissal will continue through the end of the first semester. This will be reevaluated for the second semester. Continuing with early dismissal allows for additional cleaning in buildings and allows for teacher work time.

Secondary Credits

The district will work with students to ensure that proper credit is earned for classes they are currently taking if there is a change to their schedule. Accommodations will be made based on the situation. We will ensure that students get the credits they need for classes currently enrolled in.

Transportation

Bus routes and schedules will remain the same. Pay-to-Ride will resume on November 11th.

Lunch, Recess, and Encore Classes

More information will be coming from your building principal on what the details will look like for lunch, recess, PE, band and choir.

Parent Teacher Conferences

Conferences are scheduled for Monday, November 2nd and Thursday, November 5th. Parent teacher conferences will be held via Zoom this year for all students. All conferences are voluntary and not required for this semester. There is flexibility to when conferences are scheduled. Teachers will be reaching out to parents that need to set up conferences and may begin scheduling conferences as early as October 26th through the week of November 9th.

We acknowledge that this is a change from what was originally planned and rest assured we will work with you to meet the needs of your children. We look forward to having all students back in our buildings.

Thank you,
Scott Grimes, Superintendent