



REOPENING OF SCHOOL INFORMATION

Carroll County Family,

Thank you for your patience and feedback as we have worked diligently to plan for the reopening of school while continuing to keep health and safety a top priority. As we approach the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year, we recognize that our families must make a personal choice on what is best for their child's individual needs during these challenging times, and it is our goal to provide options that make the decision process easier. In addition, to the information provided in this letter, please take a moment to view our Reopening Video Message.

Based on current guidance, the first day of school for students has been moved to August 10, 2020. Changing the first day of school to August 10th will allow adequate time for you and our teachers to prepare for a successful start to the school year. During this time, the Carroll County School System will provide enhanced training for staff, engage in implementation of additional safety protocols, and offer a variety of open house options. We are asking for your continued partnership this school year. Across the nation, we must be diligent by doing our part by self-monitoring our symptoms. Additional information can be found in our quick start guide.

For the 2020-2021 school year, Carroll County School System will offer a choice of two Learning Models for our families. Details regarding each option are listed below.

Traditional Learning Model

For families who desire for their child to have in-person learning in a school building five days a week, we are offering the Traditional Learning Model. This model will allow students to return to their school buildings with enhanced safety protocols and prevention measures in place. Students who are already enrolled in school in the Carroll County School System do not need to register for the Traditional Learning Model. If a student is new to Carroll County, they will need to register on the district website at www.carrollcountyschools.com. We look forward to seeing our students who choose the Traditional Learning Model back on our school campuses on August 10th.

Please Note: *If the need arises to close a school or the entire district due to the continued spread of COVID-19, students enrolled in the Traditional Learning Model may transition temporarily to a Distance Learning Model at home.*

Virtual Learning Model

For those who are apprehensive of their child(ren) returning to school in-person to start the school year, Carroll County School System is offering a Virtual Learning Model. The pacing and the academic expectations of the Virtual Learning Model will mirror traditional learning. Parents who opt to apply and are accepted into the Virtual Learning Model will be required to participate in a Return to School Orientation, sign a contract attesting to having Internet access, provide a device for student use, commit to support and monitor their student each day. Students in the virtual learning model will be assessed and graded, must meet attendance/engagement requirements and will be required to remain in the Virtual Learning Model for one full grading period (9 weeks).

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The enrollment window for the Virtual Learning Model will be July 14-24. Registration information can be found using the Carroll County Schools Virtual Learning Application link on the Carroll County School System website.

Prevention Measures

Our district leaders and administrators have worked tirelessly to ensure safety protocols and prevention measures are in place on all school campuses including:

- Physical distancing will be practiced whenever possible
- Staff and students are strongly encouraged to use face coverings, when practicable, particularly in physical spaces where distancing is not practical
- Frequent hand washing will be encouraged for students and staff
- Hand sanitizer will be provided in multiple locations at each facility
- Rigorous cleaning and disinfecting protocols are in place for buses and in all facilities
- Modifications will be made for school meals and bus transportation to support safety guidelines
- Large group gatherings will be minimized

For more information on our reopening guidance, prevention measures, and safety protocols, click on the documents linked below:

Return to School Quick Guide
Common Sense Return to School Information
Reopening Plan July 13, 2020
Frequently Asked Questions

For additional guidance visit our *Back to School* [\[insert hyperlink\]](#) section on the District's website at carrollcountyschools.com.

Please remember that there will be ongoing guidance regarding COVID-19. We will work closely with local and state health agencies to ensure our plans continue to keep the health and well-being of our students and staff a priority. The District has a comprehensive multi-phase plan in place and is prepared to make changes during the school year, if necessary. Please know that you have our commitment to update you as information and guidance changes. We encourage you to reach out to your child's school, if you have any specific questions regarding the reopening of school information. Carroll County leaders, teachers, and staff appreciate your support and continued partnership as we navigate through these uncertain times. Together we will continue to positively change lives!

Sincerely,

Scott K. Cowart
Superintendent

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