

Dee Etta Wright, Superintendent

Return to Learn for Lake County Students
A message from the superintendents of Lake County schools

June 13, 2020

Dear Lake County Families,

Recently, Governor Holcomb has approved the re-opening of Indiana Schools for the fall. All Lake County Schools are committed to providing a safe, secure and healthy learning environment for all students and staff. We believe that students learn best when they are in the school setting. Further, the socialization aspects of school are critical in a student’s life. Therefore, all Lake County Schools will be starting the school year in the traditional manner.

All Lake County Schools have worked collectively to ensure a safe return for students and staff. Efforts have been made to align with CDC guidelines, the Indiana Department of Health, the Indiana Department of Education and our local Lake County Health Department. It is important to note that it is not possible to meet physical distancing guidelines at all times. Therefore, all Lake County Schools plan to require that students have masks on them at all times, be prepared to wear them at any time they are in close proximity (examples include hallways and buses) or interacting face to face, and when social distancing is not possible. The classrooms will be setup with the desks and students facing in the same direction, and masks will be required if speaking.

Please note that the well-being of our students and staff is of the highest priority. We want our students in school and believe this plan makes that a reality.

All Lake County Schools will be starting on their scheduled date. Some of the measures followed by all schools are provided below. More specific guidelines will be made available by each school district.

- All Lake County schools plan to require that students have masks on them at all times, be prepared to wear them at any time they are in close proximity (examples include hallways and buses) or interacting face to face, when social distancing is not possible, or in large congregating groups.
- Observing social distancing to the greatest extent possible.
- Maximize instructional space and scheduling flexibility
- Employ enhanced cleaning procedures and with greater frequency throughout the day.
- Frequent hand washing throughout the day.
- Prohibit the use of water fountains.

Board of School Trustees

Vanessa Hernandez-Orange
President

Diane Smith
Vice President

Anton Williams
Secretary

Joel Rodriguez
Trustee

Jawann Jones
Trustee



School City of East Chicago

Dee Etta Wright, **Superintendent**

- ☐ Adjust lunch schedules and spaces to maximize social distancing.
- ☐ Identify and have separate clinic spaces in which students who are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms are screened.
- ☐ Restrict visitors to school buildings.
- ☐ Discontinue perfect attendance awards.
- ☐ Require students and staff to be fever free for 72 hours without the use of medication before returning to school.

All Lake County School will receive direction from the Lake County Health Department should there be confirmed cases of COVID-19.

We thank you, in advance, for your cooperation and commitment to ensuring the safety of our students and staff. We look forward to welcoming our families back to school.

Dr. Tony Lux,
Crown Point
Community Schools

Dr. Paige McNulty,
Gary Community
School Corporation

Mrs. Michele Riise,
Griffith Public Schools

Mrs. Mary Tracy-MacAulay,
Hanover Community
School Corporation

Dr. Larry Veracco,
Lake Central School Corporation

Dr. Sharon Johnson-Shirley,
Lake Ridge New Tech Schools

Dr. Tom Cripliver,
Lake Station
Community Schools

Mr. Nicholas Brown,
Merrillville Community Schools

Mrs. Jane Winkoff,
Northwest Indiana Special
Education Cooperative

Dr. Steve Disney,
River Forest Community
School Corporation

Ms. Dee-Etta Wright,
School City of East Chicago

Mr. Scott Miller,
School City of Hammond

Dr. Peggy Buffington,
School City of Hobart

Mrs. Cindy Scroggins,
School City of Whiting

Mr. Brian Smith,
School Town of Highland

Dr. Jeff Hendrix,
School Town of Munster

Dr. Rod Gardin,
Tri-Creek School Corporation

Board of School Trustees

Vanessa Hernandez-Orange
President

Diane Smith
Vice President

Anton Williams
Secretary

Joel Rodriguez
Trustee

Jawann Jones
Trustee