



# CLINTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Updates & Information August 17, 2021

### Board of Education / Superintendent Update

#### Superintendent Message for Return to School Plans

I hope that all of our students and families are enjoying a restful and fun summer. Our staff has been busy preparing our classrooms and buildings to safely welcome our students back to our schools for the 2021-2022 school year. We are looking forward to in-person learning and providing student extracurricular experiences in a safe manner. As we did last school year, we are relying on the guidance from the CT State Department of Education (CSDE), the CT Department of Public Health (CT-DPH), and our local health district to create operational strategies and appropriate health and safety measures for each of our schools. Our highest priority is to provide in-person learning to our students and to minimize the impacts of the pandemic on our school community. I know that our success last year was due to the shared commitment of all of our staff, students, and families to support one another and to implement strong mitigation strategies. It is likely that the health guidance will change as we move through this school year, and we will need to remain flexible and prepared to adjust our plans to keep everyone safe and to best meet the needs of our students and school community. We are committed to a safe learning environment and we will continue to communicate and update our families on a regular basis.

#### Return to School Plans- Updated "Safe Return to In-Person Learning Plan" (August 2021)

The "Safe Return to In-Person Learning Plan" outlines the district level health and safety strategies and other services that will be implemented as we open the school year.

#### Highlights of the Plan include:

- Masks will continue to be required on buses and in all school buildings for students, staff, and visitors regardless of vaccination status. Masks will not be required outdoors.
- Social Distancing will be implemented to the greatest extent possible and students within classrooms will be spaced apart at a minimum of 3 feet, and further when classroom space allows.
- Varying levels of cohorting will be utilized at our schools as a strategy to reduce the potential for transmission, but students will be able to move throughout each of our schools when switching classes and attending specials.
- Cleaning and ventilation recommendations will continue to be implemented as advised by the CT-DPH. Bathrooms, high-touch surfaces, and buses will be cleaned according to established daily schedules.
- Students and staff should conduct the Daily Symptom Self-Check and remain home when they are ill. School Nurses will communicate with families regarding health information, and all COVID-19 health communication and protocols will be overseen by School Nurse Supervisor Donna Frechette.
- Upon notification of a positive case in our schools, contact tracing will be conducted according to CT-DPH protocols for schools and in coordination with our local health department (CRAHD).
- Fully vaccinated staff and students who are close contacts will not need to quarantine if they have no symptoms.
- Communication to all stakeholders regarding COVID-19 cases will continue through the use of School Messenger and the website's COVID-19 dashboard will be updated weekly.
- The district will continue to provide meals free of charge to all students under the federal food program allowances for the 2021-2022 school year.
- The district is planning for full seasons for middle school and high school athletics and will follow the guidelines provided to schools by the CT Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC).
- High School Clubs, "After Hours" programming, and enrichment activities will be offered to students.
- Academic and mental health supports will be available to students to support a successful return to the new school year and throughout the year as needed.

#### Transportation Routes

Final adjustments are being made to transportation routes and stops for the new school year. Transportation lists will be posted on the Clinton Public Schools website this week. A School Messenger will be sent to parents when they are available online.

#### Back to School Information

Each school will be sharing important information with families as we lead into the first day of school on Wednesday, September 1st. Please be sure to check and read your email for these updates from the building administrators.