



August 12, 2020

Dear Greenfield Families,

At the August 10th School Board Meeting, the Greenfield School Board took action on three proposals that impact your student's return to the 2020-21 school year. The following information specifically outlines the school board's decisions and the steps you will need to take to prepare for September.

SCHOOL START DATE

The Greenfield School Board approved the recommendation to move the school start date for the 2020-21 school year from September 1st to **Tuesday, September 8th**. This additional week will provide families with time to be able to plan and prepare for the beginning of the school year.

REENTRY PLAN FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted the landscape of the K-12 educational system. Last March, the Wisconsin Governor mandated all schools, public and private, to close their doors to in-person learning and move to emergency remote learning. This closure continued through the remainder of the 2019-20 school year, which was defined as June 30, 2020. Now as the 2020-21 school year is about to begin, districts are faced with making a decision about how to reopen in a manner that keeps students and staff as safe as possible, and that most effectively maintains continuity of learning. It is important to note that "safe" does not mean achieving a goal of zero cases, but instead, mitigates the risks associated with the virus through a clear plan that is based on recommendations from medical and public health experts, virus data within our community, and practicality. The plan must be flexible, as the likelihood of needing to move in and out of in-person and virtual learning throughout the 2020-21 school year as a result of positive COVID cases, staffing shortages due to the illness, and mandated quarantines is highly likely.

Based on the data and information provided to the School Board, the Board voted to begin the 2020-21 school year in a fully virtual setting at all grade levels, with a gradual phase-in to face-to-face learning beginning with elementary students, followed by middle school, and then high school. **The virtual learning environment will be significantly different from what students experienced this spring during the time of emergency remote learning and all learning will be facilitated by School District of Greenfield teachers, using the District's curriculum.** Your child's teacher(s) in the virtual setting will be the same educator(s) when we phase into in-person learning. Each week, your child's school will be communicating key information about next steps, including: schedules, teacher assignments, materials, chromebook distribution (each student will be issued one), possible small group or individual student interaction, etc.

The discussion and potential decision on when to phase back into face-to-face learning will initially take place at the School Board Meeting on September 28, 2020, and then every other week at subsequent School Board meetings, until all students are able to fully return. At each School Board meeting, the Board will review the rate of disease burden, percent positive test rate in the city and county, and other relevant factors to determine when the next phase(s) can occur. Once groups of students begin phasing back to in-person learning the Board will also review the number of cases impacting the schools and the number of students and staff under quarantine/isolation.

The classroom and school environments that your child will be phased into will look different than they have in the past. Some examples of these differences are: students and staff will be required to wear face masks, hand sanitizer

stations will be located throughout the buildings, classroom furniture will be reconfigured to maximize space, and there will be changes to arrival, dismissal, lunch, recess, and passing times to maximize physical distancing. Your child's principal will be sharing the specific mitigation plans for in-person learning in your child's school in the coming weeks. The universal measures that will be in place in each of the buildings throughout the District can be [viewed here](#).

The District's goal is to safely move to in-person learning as soon as possible and in a manner that supports continuity of learning; therefore, it is important for the District to obtain additional information from families to prepare for when we return to a face-to-face setting.

Bus Service - We are requiring all families who are eligible for bus service to complete a survey regarding transportation. The **transportation survey will be available Thursday, August 13th in the Infinite Campus Parent Portal**.

FULLY DIGITAL SEMESTER OPTION

At the meeting on Monday night, the Greenfield School Board also authorized the administration to **provide a FULLY digital option for the entire first semester** for students whose parents selected the following options on the most recent district survey:

- *My child or a person in our home has a documented, underlying health condition that will require my student to learn virtually at least through the first semester of the 2020-21 school year.*

OR

- *Given the current status of the virus, I am not comfortable sending my student to school in the fall and I would prefer a completely virtual learning option for all of first semester.*

Parents who selected either of these options will receive communication from the District on Friday, August 14, regarding the next steps to register their child for the fully digital, semester-long option. As there is a need to be extremely flexible in pacing, and as district teaching staff will be working with students in classes and courses throughout the semester, this option will be facilitated by an external provider.

NOTE: Students registered for this option will not phase into in-person learning with their peers. They will be learning digitally for the entire first semester.

If a parent indicated this option as the preferred option for their child(ren) on the most recent survey and now, given the School Board's decision, would prefer the phased-in option described above, please contact Ellen Oates via email at eoates@greenfield.k12.wi.us. Be sure to include your name, your child's name, grade, and attendance area school in the email correspondence. Additionally, if you would now prefer for your child to engage in this fully digital option for the entire first semester of the school year, due to a health condition and/or discomfort with your child attending in-person at any point throughout first semester, you may indicate that preference by emailing Ellen Oates at the above email address as well.

Thank you for your continued partnership in your child's education.