

August 21,2020

Dear Center School Families,

I hope that this communication finds you healthy and enjoying the summer. As we learned last week, the Ellington Public Schools will begin the school year in a Hybrid Learning Model.

This model was selected by the Ellington Board of Education with the intent of making quality health assessments throughout the month of September. The goal, at this time, is to look to a full in person return to school starting October 5, 2020. A full return will only take place once we are confident that students and staff will all be safe and health data supports it.

Hybrid Model Description:

- Within this model, a student will be assigned to either our purple cohort or our gold cohort.
- For consistency, siblings throughout all schools will be assigned to the same cohort.
- Those assigned to the **purple cohort** will attend school in person on **Monday and Tuesday**, while participating in Distance Learning on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.
- Those assigned to the **gold cohort** will attend school in person on **Thursday and Friday**, while participating in Distance Learning on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.
- Those who have chosen full distance learning are placed in our **silver cohort**.
- On Wednesday, all students will participate in some form of distance learning - which will include a blend of synchronous and asynchronous instruction. A more specific explanation of Wednesday will be shared soon.
- For more details, please click the [Hybrid Board Presentation - August 13, 2020](#).
- For a full viewing please click the [Video - Board of Education Meeting - August 13, 2020](#).

Calendars:

- [First Week Calendar: September 8 - 11](#)
- [Week Two - Four Calendar: September 14 - October 2](#)
- [District Calendar 2020 - 2021](#)

Cohort Assignments:

- You should receive an email later this afternoon with specific cohort assignments.
- If you do not receive an assignment, please contact me at Center School.
- Please know that once classroom cohorts are set, changes are very difficult.

Teacher Assignments:

Please note that **specific teacher assignments will come out by August 28, 2020**. We have been reworking our class lists so that they consist of two cohorts, purple and gold. I want to share the process for our class placement decisions. First, students in the middle school who had younger siblings were placed into the same cohort. Next, we matched all siblings within Center School to be in the same cohort. Special education and SRBI services were also taken into consideration when placing students. Lastly, we balanced the classes as best we could in terms of student personalities, academic needs, and class size.

School Supplies:

We have compiled a district-wide school supply list for each grade. Please know these supplies are suggestions. We will always supply the items your child needs. However, this year in an effort to stay safe, we are encouraging students to use individual materials as opposed to shared class materials. For a copy of this, please click [Supply List](#).

Special Education and ELL:

For information on Special Education and ELL services in the hybrid/DL model please click [here](#).

Kindergarten Orientation:

On **Wednesday, September 2, 2020**, Center School will host a **parents only** Kindergarten orientation. For social distancing, **we invite one parent from each family** to meet our staff in person in the Library Media Center.

- Those assigned to Mrs. Rucki's class - 9:30 - 10:00
- Those assigned to Mrs. D'Addona's class - 10:30 - 11:00
- Those assigned to Ms. Botteron's class - 11:30- 12:00
- **Note: Kindergarten Class Placements will also come out on August 28, 2020**

Reopening Plan:

- The detailed Ellington Public Schools Reopening Plan is located [Ellington Reopening Plan](#)
- Prior to school starting you will also receive a specific Center School reopening plan.
 - Some things for parents to begin to prepare for:
 - A new arrival and dismissal procedure
 - A new procedure for visitors entering the school building

Center School Reopening Team:

I want to take a moment to share with you that a reopening team was established at Center School in early July. This team that consists of fourteen staff members has met throughout the summer, and continues to meet to prepare for a safe and effective return to school. We are dedicated to making this unprecedented school year one that is full of learning, joy, time with friends, and safe choices.

Summer Reading Reminder:

Please click [here](#) for all information regarding our summer reading programming. We encourage all students to work their reading muscles before returning to school in a few weeks! If you have any questions, please feel free to email our Reading Consultant, Allison Morris at amorris@ellingtonschools.net.

Dates to Remember:

- August 26th - final date to change to Distance Learning or hybrid model
- Week of the 31st - teachers will conduct a virtual Meet and Greet
- Sept 2nd - New Kindergarten Orientation (one parent only)
- Sept. 8th - First day of in-person school for Purple Cohort
- Sept. 8th - First day of Distance Learning for Gold Cohort
- Sept. 8th - First day of Distance Learning for Silver Cohort
- Sept 9th - Even though this is a Wednesday, Purple cohort will attend in person
- Sept 10th - First day of in-person school for Gold Cohort
- Sept 10th - First day of Distance Learning for Purple Cohort
- Sept 11th- Continue in-person for Gold Cohort/continue DL for Purple cohort

Finally, please take a look at our welcome letter on our website or click [here](#) and be on the lookout for more information next week. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Stay happy, healthy, and safe!

Michael P. Verderame

