August 26, 2020

Dear CLPS Students and Families,

On Monday, August 17, 2020, the Board of Education supported the implementation of a hybrid model of education for students in Center Line Public Schools. A hybrid model is designed to allow students to receive face-to-face education part of the week and utilize remote education the remaining part of the week. A tremendous amount of effort has been put into developing a safe return for our students and staff. Class sizes have been reduced so that only approximately 50% of the students will be scheduled to be in the classroom at one time. Buildings are being prepared for appropriate social distancing using a variety of personal protection equipment. Our technology one-to-one distribution plan is preparing to deliver a Chromebook to each student. Lastly, professional development has been scheduled to strengthen our staff’s ability to teach both face-to-face and virtually.

With all of this being said, outside factors are making it difficult to ensure a safe return to face-to-face instruction. A few days ago, Governor Whitmer acknowledged that Macomb County has the highest rate of COVID-19 cases per million in the Detroit Region, with 97 cases per million people per day and a positivity rate of 8.2%. The Macomb County Health Department recently shared that 100+ new cases of COVID-19 are being reported each day. These rates of infection are well above the state average and are either increasing or maintaining at this high level. For these reasons, the Center Line Public Schools’ Board of Education reconvened on August 25, 2020 and voted to start the 2020/2021 school year utilizing a remote (online) format to deliver education to our students. We are committed to bringing students back to school face-to-face instruction as soon as there is a significant reduction in the number of positive cases within our county. All of the efforts that have been put into place for the delivery of a hybrid model of education will be utilized when it is determined that the school district will return to face-to-face instruction.

We understand the challenges online education places on students and families. Center Line Public Schools’ staff is prepared to offer our students a high quality online learning experience. The 2020/2021 remote learning experience will look very different from the online learning experience from last spring. Updated information regarding the start of the school year will be shared later today and then will be available on our website clps.org under the Return to School tab including a Return to School Plan that I would strongly encourage families to access. Printed versions are available at each of our school buildings. This document includes important dates, procedures, and a frequently asked questions section.

Thank you for your continued patience and understanding as we maneuver through these challenging times.

Joseph Haynes
Superintendent