

To: CCSC Parents and Staff
From: Keith Thackery
Date: July 31, 2020
RE: Beginning of School Updates

Dear Parents and Staff Members,

I would like to welcome everyone back for the 2020-2021 school year. After a challenging ending to last school year with the COVID-19 situation, we find ourselves with yet more challenges as we look forward to a new school year. Across the state of Indiana, schools are delaying or moving to alternate schedules as this school year begins. It is our desire at Carroll to get students back to school in the traditional setting as soon as possible. We believe that on-site instruction is best academically and socially for our students. We also believe that we have a responsibility to our students, families, and staff to offer educational opportunities in the safest manner possible. For that reason, Carroll has offered both virtual and on-site options for our families to choose from. Details of our virtual options have been made available on our website. You may also contact building principals for more information regarding the virtual option.

As I promised in an email last week, I have taken time to read through the governor's recently signed executive orders mandating masks in the state of Indiana and outlining social distancing protocols in public places. I have also taken time to listen to clarifications from State Superintendent, Dr. McCormick, in her July 28th update. When comparing the executive order with Carroll's original Re-Entry Plan, it is evident that there are differences that need to be addressed. In particular, the executive order makes it very clear that masks will be worn when social distancing of 6 feet or greater cannot be achieved. These differences, along with other considerations such as tracking COVID-19 exposure within our schools, have led to many hours of thoughtful discussion by our school leaders on how best to educate our students and how to group our students in order to minimize exposure to COVID-19. These discussions have also led to a decision to adjust our starting date and building schedules this year.

Before I go any further, I need to stress to our families that our plans can only mitigate or lessen the chance of exposure to COVID-19 and will never eliminate that possibility. I also want to let you know that we are aware that calendar changes will have an impact on your family schedules, but our school leaders feel that the changes we make now will have a positive, long-term impact on our ability to educate your child.

With that said, the governor's executive order is currently in effect through August 26th. When school starts at Carroll, our staff, students, and visitors will be required to wear masks or face shields on school buses and in buildings and facilities. Some of the governor's exemptions include:

- Pre-K through 2nd grade students are exempt from wearing masks or face shields except when on school buses.

- Any persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability which prevents wearing a face covering are exempt from wearing masks or face shields. Our school will require medical documentation for these exemptions.
- Masks or face shields can be removed for eating, drinking, and physical exercise.
- Masks or face shields can be removed for in-person instruction when social distancing of 6 feet can be maintained.
- Masks or face shields may be removed during recess periods provided social distancing can be maintained.

Next, I would like to address some changes to our school calendar and our individual building schedules that we will be making as we proceed forward. The first teacher day will still be August 10th. However, the first student day will be changed from August 11th to August 13th. The teacher professional development days scheduled in October and February will be moved to August 12th and 13th in order to allow teachers more time to prepare for school this year. October 13th and February 15th will now be scheduled as student days rather than teacher Professional Development days.

Here is a big change all families will need to be aware of immediately. The elementary will be on a regular schedule with all students reporting for school beginning August 13th. However, the Jr.- Sr. High School will begin the school year on a hybrid schedule. The hybrid schedule at the Jr. - Sr. High means that students will be divided into two groups that I will refer to as groups A and B. Group A students will report to school on August 13th and Group B students will report to school on August 14th. Over the next 3 weeks, from August 17th through September 4th, Group A will meet on-site on Mondays and Thursdays while Group B students meet on-site Tuesdays and Fridays. All Jr.-Sr. High students will be involved in eLearning on the days they are not scheduled to be on campus.

All students in both schools will be involved in eLearning days the first 3 Wednesdays of the school year. This means that all families should make plans in both the Elementary and the Jr.- Sr. High for eLearning on August 19th and 26th as well as September 2nd.

Keep in mind, these schedule changes are intended to minimize student exposure to COVID-19. Our Elementary schedule already lends itself to forming cohorts and limiting crossover exposure between classes and grade levels. At the Jr.-Sr. High School, grade levels are mixed and classes change every period. The hybrid model for the Jr.-Sr. High will decrease the density of students in that situation.

Last year was the first time that Indiana schools were faced with an extended eLearning period where we were out for weeks and not just a couple of days. Across the state it was evident that eLearning in general needed improvement in many areas. One advantage that Carroll has over many other districts is that we already have 1:1 devices in place. Our goal this year to improve our own extended eLearning capabilities include the following:

1. The purchase of high quality webcams with microphones for each teacher
2. The purchase of Screencastify software for teachers to record lessons
3. Uniformity in all classes using Google Classroom
4. Uniformity in teachers using Google Meets to check in with classes and students
5. Installing Wi-Fi access in the north high school parking lot, the west elementary parking lot, and north of the administration building next to Flora park. Students and staff will need a school-issued device to use these access points.
6. Using the three Wednesdays at the beginning of the year for teacher Professional Development and student practice in preparation for potential future extended eLearning periods.

Some final notes on school schedules...for the Jr-Sr. High School, we will schedule students living in the same household into the same groups. If students in your household were scheduled in different groups, please call the high school office and the staff will work with you to adjust schedules to the same group. There will also be device pickup dates scheduled for students in Group B since they will not be on campus until August 14th. I know as parents you will need to know which group, A or B, that your student will be in for your own scheduling purposes. We hope to have that information to you early next week. We will also review State guidance just prior to Labor Day, and adjustments will be made to these schedules based on that guidance. I view these changes as temporary and hope these changes will only be needed through Labor Day. Our goal at Carroll is to get back to traditional school as soon as possible.

In this message, I have addressed a few changes concerning the start of school this year. As you scroll further down, you will find calendars that may be helpful in planning the start of school for you and your family. You can expect further guidance and more details from our principals over the next few days. Our school leaders have provided videos on our website with information to help you start the school year. You can view these videos on our website or on our Carroll's YouTube Channel at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxc_nLLPN-KNMKG-KgEG91w/ .

Thank you for your support and understanding as we all work towards giving our students a great education and keeping them safe.

Sincerely,

Keith Thackery

Keith Thackery
Superintendent

Carroll Consolidated School Corporation

2020-2021

Academic Year Calendar



July 20						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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August 20						
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September 20						
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November 20						
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December 20						
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January 21						
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February 21						
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March 21						
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May 21						
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June 21						
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July 21						
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August 21						
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Important Dates

Aug 4	Registration 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Aug 5	Registration 1:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Aug 7	New Hire Orientation Day
Aug 10-12	Corporation Meeting Day/Teacher PD Days
Aug 13	Students' First Day
Sep 7	Labor Day - (No Students or Staff)
Oct 8	End of First 9 Weeks
Oct 19-23	Fall Break (No Students or Staff)
Nov 25-27	Thanksgiving Break (No Students or Staff)
Dec 18	End of First Semester
Dec 21	HS Teacher Work Day (No Students)
12/21-1/4	Christmas Break (No Students)
Jan 4	CES Teacher Work Day (No Students)
Jan 5	Students Return to School
Mar 12	End of 3rd Nine Weeks
Mar 22-26	Spring Break
Apr 2	Good Friday (No Students or Staff)
May 27	End of Second Semester/Students' Last Day
May 28	Teacher Work Day (1/2 Day - No Students)
Jun 6	Senior Graduation at CJSHS 3:00 PM

**CCSC Beginning of Year Calendars
2020-2021**

Carroll Elementary School – Important Dates				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Aug.10 Corporation Meeting Day Teachers Only	Aug.11 PD Day Teachers Only	Aug.12 PD Day Teachers Only	Aug.13 Students' First Day All Students On-Site	Aug.14 All Students On-Site
Aug.17 All Students On-Site	Aug.18 All Students On-Site	Aug.19 eLearning	Aug.20 All Students On-Site	Aug.21 All Students On-Site
Aug.24 All Students On-Site	Aug.25 All Students On-Site	Aug.26 eLearning	Aug.27 All Students On-Site	Aug.28 All Students On-Site
Aug.31 All Students On-Site	Sept.1 All Students On-Site	Sept.2 eLearning	Sept.3 All Students On-Site	Sept.4 All Students On-Site

Carroll Jr.-Sr. High School – Important Dates Hybrid Schedule				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Aug.10 Corporation Meeting Day Teachers Only	Aug.11 PD Day Teachers Only	Aug.12 PD Day Teachers Only	Aug.13 Group A: On-Site Group B: eLearning	Aug.14 Group A: eLearning Group B: On-Site
Aug.17 Group A: On-Site Group B: eLearning	Aug.18 Group A: eLearning Group B: On-Site	Aug.19 eLearning	Aug.20 Group A: On-Site Group B: eLearning	Aug.21 Group A: eLearning Group B: On-Site
Aug.24 Group A: On-Site Group B: eLearning	Aug.25 Group A: eLearning Group B: On-Site	Aug.26 eLearning	Aug.27 Group A: On-Site Group B: eLearning	Aug.28 Group A: eLearning Group B: On-Site
Aug.31 Group A: On-Site Group B: eLearning	Sept.1 Group A: eLearning Group B: On-Site	Sept.2 eLearning	Sept.3 Group A: On-Site Group B: eLearning	Sept.4 Group A: eLearning Group B: On-Site