

August 11, 2020

Dear Warrior Families,

At last evening's regular meeting of the Board of Education, a second presentation regarding Brainerd Public Schools' Safe Learning Plan was presented to the board and community. As required by executive order, district leaders have developed thorough responses to the three required learning models so that our students and staff are prepared to, "Return to Learn in 2020-21." The learning models include: 1. All students in-person learning; 2. All students distance learning; and 3. a Hybrid Model combining the best characteristics of both. Our models take into consideration the needs of our 6500+ PK-Grade 12 students, 1200 staff members, 12 school buildings and our 516-mile school district.

For more details on the Brainerd Public Schools Safe Learning Plan, please see the [July 31, 2020](#) and [August 6, 2020](#) letters which were communicated to our Warrior Families.

At the August 10, 2020 Board of Education meeting, my recommendation to begin the school year in the **Hybrid Learning Model** was unanimously approved. This is as long as the 14 day case rate range for Crow Wing County stays below 50 per 10,000 people. As of August 9, 2020, we were at 12.1. The information reviewed with the Board of Education on August 6 [here](#) and on August 11 [here](#) will provide further clarification.

I am certain that you are asking what this Hybrid Learning Model looks like for your children. The following is a brief update of each grade level. **The Brainerd Public School's Hybrid Learning Model includes:**

Early Childhood Education (ECFE/ECSE):

- **School Readiness/Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) preschools:** In-person education will be the same as our regular instruction schedule.
- **Early Childhood Special Education:** Follows the learning models as School Readiness & VPK.
- **Early Childhood Family Education and Parent/Child Programs:** Provided on-site with smaller class sizes and mixed age groupings.
- **Early Childhood Screening:** Will continue with added health and safety measures in place. Screenings will continue on-site, unless distance learning is in place and it would move to online/phone interviews.
- **Birth - Age 3 Early Intervention:** Home visit services will be conducted onsite or virtually for families.
- **Safety measures to be implemented:** smaller class sizes, students will not rotate between classes, face coverings will be worn by students (ages 6 and above) and staff, social distancing will be implemented and other measures as recommended by the Crow Wing County(CWC) Health Supervisor, Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Elementary Schools and Grade 5: (Baxter, Garfield, Harrison, Lowell, Nisswa and Riverside Elementary Schools and 5th Grade at Forestview Middle School)

- All students will be instructed at school every day in grade level cohorts.
- Students will have a normal start time with a dismissal approximately one hour or so early each day we are in the hybrid model. The exact start and end times will be forthcoming as the final transportation schedule is developed. This timeframe will be much like during early release days.
- **Safety measures to be implemented:** smaller class sizes, students will not rotate between classes, face coverings will be worn by students and staff, social distancing will be implemented and other measures as recommended by the CWC Health Supervisor, MDH and the CDC.

Forestview Middle (Grades 6-8) and Brainerd High Schools (Grades 9-12):

- Students will follow an AA/BB schedule where the AA group will attend in person on Monday and Tuesday and the BB group will attend in person on Thursday and Friday.
- Students will attend in-person at school two days per week and distance learning at home and on line following the in-person schedule three days per week.
- Students will have a normal start time with a dismissal approximately one hour or so early each day we are in the hybrid model. The exact start and end times will be forthcoming as the final transportation model is developed. This timeframe will be much like during early release days.
- Safety measures to be implemented: smaller class sizes, students will rotate between classes, face coverings will be worn by students and staff, social distancing will be implemented and other measures as recommended by the CWC Health Supervisor, MDH and the CDC.

Brainerd Learning Center (MLAP and AEC only):

- Hybrid Model will be their regular shortened instruction schedule.
- Safety measures to be implemented: smaller class sizes, students will not rotate between classes, face coverings will be worn by students and staff, social distancing will be implemented and other measures as recommended by the CWC Health Supervisor, MDH and the CDC.

Lincoln Education Center:

- All students will attend school five days per week.
- A shortened day using a standard schedule will be followed. All classrooms will be self-contained.
- Safety measures to be implemented: smaller class sizes, students will not rotate between classes, face coverings will be worn by students and staff, social distancing will be implemented and other measures as recommended by the CWC Health Supervisor, MDH and the CDC.

As we continue to plan for the upcoming school year, we are asking families to let us know what choices they are making for their children. In addition to the Hybrid Learning Model, parents have the option to choose an all distance learning model for the academic term if they prefer to not have their children attend on-site.

No later than 8:00 a.m. on Monday, August 17, 2020, parents/guardians are asked to fill out an enrollment form for each K-Grade 12 student at <https://forms.gle/mzbPg2mStAtZshBz5>. The enrollment form for each preschool student is <https://forms.gle/qRaaFgfXK4tDXc9r5>. If you need assistance filling out and submitting either of the enrollment forms, please call the Welcome Center at 218-454-6917, Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

If you have additional questions as you consider the options, please see the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) document on the district website. There is a link in that document to submit a question you have that is not listed there.

Thank you for your support for our students, staff and school district. We must continue to work together to keep everyone safe and healthy while pursuing educational excellence for all learners. Brainerd Public Schools will continue to keep you informed as decisions are made regarding our county's case rate range changes and our plan to "Return to Learn in 2020-21." We look forward to seeing our students and staff back on-site Tuesday, September 8, 2020.

Respectfully,



Laine D. Larson, Superintendent
Brainerd Public Schools - ISD 181