



Grant Community High School District 124

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Superintendent

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Principal

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July 30, 2020

Dear Grant Community Parents, Guardians, and Students,

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year. Everyone at Grant has been working exceptionally hard to stay ahead of the continually changing landscape to prepare for a great, although unique year. Although we are starting the year remotely, we are already looking down the road and are excited to think about safely returning to in person instruction as soon as possible.

We have been diligently working throughout the summer with staff in Professional Learning Teams and District Committees to prepare for the prospect of a year unlike any other. Our goal has been to prepare to deliver high quality instruction whether we are learning fully in person, in a blended model, or in a fully remote model. This letter is intended to communicate student expectations for starting the year with remote learning as well as to communicate important back-to-school information including: the school calendar, material pick-up, and Freshman Orientation.

As you are all aware, students will be starting the school year as fully remote learners enrolled in classes taught by Grant teachers. Students who had initially selected to opt-in to fully remote learning will be contacted by counselors to confirm their fall learning plan.

Remote Learning

A comprehensive learning plan has been developed to maintain our traditionally high academic expectations regardless of the learning mode we are in. With revised guidance from the Illinois State School Board, this year's e-learning 2.0 will look drastically different than last spring's emergency transition to remote learning. The most notable changes for students are:

- A. Students will receive 5 clock hours of instruction daily
- B. Daily attendance is required
- C. Students will remotely follow a modified bell schedule and meet synchronously (live) with each class
 - a. Students will receive 2.5 hours of daily synchronous (live) instruction with Grant teachers
- D. We are returning to traditional grading expectations for students

Our e-learning 2.0 Student Quick Reference is being finalized to provide an easily accessible document that clarifies remote learning expectations for students. This document will be sent out the week of August 3. Details about individual class expectations will be provided, as usual, in individual course syllabi at the onset of each class.

For families who previously completed the survey indicating that they were choosing to participate in the opt-in fully remote learning, a school counselor will be contacting them the week of August 3 to confirm course placements.

School Calendar

At the July 16 Board of Education meeting, a [revised school calendar](#) was approved. Unless otherwise communicated, this school calendar will be followed regardless of the learning mode that we are in. August 13 and August 14 are the first two days of school for freshman students and are dedicated to Freshman Orientation. **Monday, August 17 is the first day of school for all students.**

Grades 10, 11, 12 Material Pick-Up

With the strict guidelines from the IDPH and ISBE detailing campus access requirements and social distancing expectations, it has been necessary to modify our typical On-Site Material Pick-up process. Students will be scheduled alphabetically by grade level and assigned a date and time to come to campus to receive the necessary materials including: schedules, textbooks, handbooks, and Chromebooks. Students will need to provide their own transportation. Further details will be sent out the week of August 3. Below is the schedule for Sophomore-Senior Material Pick-Up:

August 10 - Seniors

August 11 - Juniors

August 12 - Sophomores

Freshman Orientation 2020

With the strict guidelines from the IDPH and ISBE detailing campus access requirements and social distancing expectations, it has been necessary to modify our typical Freshman Orientation process. Freshman Orientation 2020 will be condensed to reduce student time on campus and to focus on 1) distributing necessary learning materials, and 2) establishing initial relationships with TEAM teachers and Big Dawg Mentors. Freshmen will be scheduled by last name and TEAM room into a specific date and time. At their scheduled time, students will be met by their Big Dawg Mentors and TEAM teacher to assist them in getting their learning materials. Following material distribution, students will meet with their TEAM teacher and Big Dawg Mentors to log into Schoology, access student emails, and prepare them for their first day of classes. Orientation will run from 7:45 am - 2:00 pm with freshmen scheduled in small groups on campus for approximately 1 hour. Students will need to provide their own transportation. Further details will be sent out the week of August 3. Below is the two-day schedule for Freshman Orientation:

August 13 - Freshmen A-L

August 14 - Freshmen M-Z

Athletics/Activities

Please see the following [link](#) to IHSA's July 29 announcement that describes a modified 2020-2021 schedule where all sports are played over four shortened seasons. We are actively working with the NLCC, our coaches/sponsors, and activity/athletic directors to process this new information, but we are excited to know that athletics/activities will continue in a modified way this year.

School Breakfasts and Lunches

Grant will continue to provide breakfast and lunch to qualifying families during remote learning. A survey will be sent out the week of August 3 to qualified families indicating whether they are requesting meal service.

Lake County Technology Campus

Tech Campus will be starting the school year in a remote learning environment. Although both Grant and Tech Campus are starting the year remote learning, students enrolled in Tech Campus will be able to remain enrolled in both Grant courses and Tech Campus courses. Tech Campus students' schedules will allow them to begin their school day with Tech Campus remote learning and conclude their day with Grant's remote learning. Specific information from Lake County Technology Campus will be forthcoming to enrolled students.

Please continue to stay tuned for more detailed information regarding the start of the school year as it is released next week.

Although this may not be the start of the year that many of us envisioned, I am certain that as a school community we will rise to the new challenge. As a staff and educational institution, we are looking at this as one more opportunity to learn from, and we are preparing for an amazing, although unique, year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeremy Schmidt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "S".

Jeremy Schmidt
Principal
Grant Community High School