Dear Elementary Families,

With our current evolving situation there is much information we are excited to share as soon as it’s finalized. Based on current data within our county and community, it is highly probable that we will return to in-person instruction at the elementary level. Within this email we will outline specifics for all three learning scenarios to help you better anticipate what students will experience during the 2020-2021 school-year. The school district will make a determination on our learning model for the start of the year no later than August 24th. If you have already made a final decision and intend to have your child participate in the distance learning model, we ask that you contact our main office to verify your plan if you have not already indicated this plan on our district survey or through a phone survey. Any families who have changed their plan from what they indicated on the district survey are also asked to contact the main office and update us on your intentions.

On the week of August 24th elementary buildings will finalize class lists, communicate teacher placements and then share information about back to school conferences via email. Families are also encouraged to look for school supply lists and other back to school information on the elementary school websites. We understand that this timeline is later than usual. Finalized information will be communicated as soon as possible. Please note that the sooner you communicate intentions to the school, the sooner we can finalize plans and communicate them with our families.

It is important to note that though families have the choice to follow the school model or to do Distance Learning only, and that you are allowed to change at any point, it is strongly recommended that you commit to whichever model you elect for no less than a grading period (trimesters in the elementary). The education of your child, as well as the hundreds we serve, will be significantly impacted if families attempt to make changes more frequently than at trimester breaks. We understand it may take a few weeks to feel confident in your decision and that early changes will happen. We wish to discourage later changes in the middle of the academic period but will respect family choice.

In-Person Learning Scenario (students return onsite):
- Families are required to check their child’s temperature and symptoms BEFORE school daily, and are required to keep their child home and contact the school if they have symptoms listed on the Minnesota Department of Health checklist. Checklist will be provided to all families at Open House Conferences.
- Cloquet Transit has been working closely with the school district to review transportation guidelines and make changes to decrease riders assigned to some routes (an additional route has been added) and increase cleaning as required by the state. 6 foot distancing is not required or possible on the bus in an in-person model and busses will run at full capacity.
- There will be no morning recess to avoid a large group gathering (this includes bussers, walkers and students getting a ride).
- Students who walk or get dropped off should plan to arrive between 8:00-8:10am.
- Students who eat breakfast at school will pick it up and go directly to their classroom to eat.
- Recess will be staggered by grade-level to avoid intermixing between students as much as possible. If students choose to play and maintain distancing they may remove their masks at
recess. If they wish to play on equipment or in close proximity to others they need to plan to wear their masks. Please prepare your child for these expectations in advance.

- Lunches will be eaten in your child’s homeroom.
- Both breakfast and lunch will be pre-plated and distributed in a grab and go style to eliminate self-service.
- Masks are required on school busses.
- Masks will be required throughout the building at all times unless there is a documented medical exemption.
- In Physical Education specifically, masks will be required unless the students are engaged in a high exertion activity.
- End of the day dismissal procedures will be adjusted to eliminate large bus line gatherings. Building specific logistics for pick-up/drop-off will be shared with parents closer to the start of the year.

*In an all back, in person model, it is not possible or required by the Minnesota Department of Health/Department of Education, to distance students 6 feet apart at all times. Classrooms will have their normal number of students (18-26 depending on grade-level) and staff will do the best they can in their space to keep students spread out. This is part of why having all students wear face masks is so important!!

Hybrid Learning Scenario (students are onsite 1 out of every 3 days):

- All of the above in addition to the following:
  - Buses will be at a reduced capacity (no more than 50%) based on MDH/MDE guidelines.
  - Spacing in classroom settings and throughout the building will ensure 6 feet of distancing between students at all times.
- Our hybrid model rotation will mean that students will be assigned to one of three groups: Group A, Group B and Group C. Siblings across the district will be placed in the same group to ensure they are on the same rotation. This model and rotation would mean that your student would attend school one or two times per week and would be off-site doing supported distance learning on the other days when their group is not onsite. Example: Monday - Group A, Tuesday - Group B, Wednesday - Group C, Thursday - Group A, Friday - Group B…)

Distance Learning Scenario:

- Distance learning will be much different than last spring!
- All students, K-4, will have their own district-issued iPad for home usage and teaching and learning will be online based in a distance model.
- **Internet needs (per our district Technology Department):** If you have internet access issues the district will issue a district provided hotspot to be used for educational purposes only. More information will be provided to applicable families.
- Daily attendance and classroom participation is required by law and would be consistently monitored by your child’s teacher.
- Distance Learning only cohorts will be taught by licensed Cloquet staff using an online platform. The platform will be customized to deliver purposeful, standards-based video lessons facilitated by Cloquet teachers.

Adjustments that will be made for all scenarios:

- Drinking fountains will be disabled (water filling stations will be intact) and all students will use water bottles for hydration.
-Use of common spaces such as bathrooms are going to be monitored and scheduled by classroom teachers to avoid overlap and intermixing.

-Increased hand washing and hand sanitizing will be incorporated into the daily routine at a higher frequency and with ongoing instruction.

-Increased cleaning will be occurring throughout the day to enhance sanitizing within the building.

-Student supplies will not be shared whenever avoidable. In instances where they are required to be shared, increased cleaning and sanitizing will take place.

-Family members are required to take their child’s temperature at home daily.

-Families need to review the health guidelines (a copy will be provided) and keep their child home based on guidance listed. Please report symptoms to our school nurse.

-To adhere to state guidance, visitors will be allowed in the building only during emergency situations.

-School email messages will be the primary means of communication throughout the school-year. It will be extremely important that you check email regularly to receive timely information.

We hope this email finds you well and are looking forward to the start of another school year!! If you still have unanswered questions the district will be placing the comprehensive district plan on our website soon. You can also contact your respective school as well.

Sincerely,

Robbi Mondati
Washington Elementary Principal

David Wangen
Churchill Elementary Principal