

LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Hello WILDCAT NATION!

We are faced with many challenges in life but there are no challenges we cannot overcome **Together**. COVID-19 has impacted all of us; and our goal now is to evaluate, plan, and provide the safest opportunity for our teachers, staff, and students to return to school; what we refer to as **Return to Learn!**



This is and has been no small task. We have engaged teachers, parents, community members, students, health departments, neighboring school districts, and a host of medical resources. We understand that questions, concerns, and issues remain, but we truly believe our children need school. There is more to school than the 3-Rs; school is learning, social interactions, lunchtime talks, recess play, conversations with friends, athletic events, choir/band concerts, student programs, and opportunities to grow as an individual. These are priorities our children need and you have entrusted us to provide those to your family.

We have taken great pride in providing clean, safe, and well maintained facilities. We have worked for several months to strategically plan and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in our school. These last six months have been challenging for **all** of us. We believe that our families and communities overwhelmingly want students to return to school and educational programs. **Our goals are to provide every opportunity we can for students and staff to return to school and experience what we all share for our children and their future...safety, learning, kindness, and hope for a better tomorrow.**

School is scheduled to begin on Tuesday, August 25; teachers will begin the week prior with focused attention on Return to Learn planning. Ensuring this start date has been difficult as many things have changed daily at all levels. We are committed to giving your family and all our children our very best efforts each and every day. We all must prepare for change and possibilities that may be presented. School will be and look different, but **Together** we can provide our children the best opportunity possible for our next normal future.

On behalf of our Board of Education, teachers, staff, and administration, please allow us your understanding, patience, and grace. Our commitment is to provide the safest environment to protect every staff member, student, and family.

We can do this...We are all in this Together and Together we will be better.

Richard L. Asbill

Dr. Richard L. Asbill, Superintendent



Introduction

The global Coronavirus pandemic has introduced a new level of risk for in-person instruction and in-person gatherings. Cassville R-IV will make reasonable best efforts to minimize risk. Our schools are designed to educate students through social, face-to-face interactions, in relatively close spaces and groups. The benefits of this approach to education are well accepted. We have heard from our community and access to school is important. We also know our community prioritizes student and staff safety and expects a thoughtful re-entry plan.

As we prepare to welcome students back, it is important to understand how COVID-19 is spread in order for everyone to help do their part to minimize the exposure to the virus. COVID-19 is mostly spread by respiratory droplets released when people talk, cough, or sneeze. Personal prevention practices (such as handwashing, staying home when sick, physical distancing, and face coverings) and environmental cleaning and disinfection are important principles that are covered in this document. We emphasize the importance of staying home when you don't feel well. Incentives and award programs related to attendance will not be implemented this year.

Cassville R-IV School District will strive to create and maintain the safest environment for all staff and students. We will implement and monitor recommendations and requirements that are provided by local, state and federal departments.

Faculty and Staff: Cassville R-IV School District will require faculty and staff to wear a mask when physical/social distancing cannot be achieved.

Students: Cassville R-IV School District will recommend students grades 6-12 wear a mask when physical/social distancing cannot be achieved. However, all students will be required to wear a mask while riding a school bus.

Communication

- Regular updates to the Board of Education, community members, and parents/guardians will be provided as determined by school administration.
- It is imperative that schools have up-to-date contact information. Teachers will share valuable information as well as provide feedback to students during this virtual learning experience. Please make sure all of your contact information is up-to-date with your child's respective office.
- Families and community members may access the following for district updates regarding COVID=19 and its effects on:
 - District website link: [District Updates Regarding COVID-19](#)
 - District text alerts: https://cassville.k12.mo.us/vnews/display.v?page=vlist_signup
 - Download district app: Search Cassville R-IV in your app store
 - Follow the district social media pages on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter
 - School Messenger (Automated phone message system)



Cassville Engagement Level Indicators

Cassville R-IV School District will use Engagement Level Indicators to define health and safety restrictions to provide guidelines for students, staff, parents, and community stakeholders. With guidance from the Barry County Health Department, Cassville School District will adjust Engagement Level restrictions to promote wellness or respond to wide-spread transmission of COVID-19. Staff, parents, students, and community are asked to assist with wellness efforts.

NORMAL OPERATIONS

TRADITIONAL SCHOOL

All classes will take place in school buildings. Staff and students will maintain normal routines and school safety/security procedures. Parents, visitors, and guests follow all normal school security protocols.

ENGAGEMENT LEVEL 1

No Community Spread--Seated School with Health Precautions

All classes will take place in school buildings. Extra cleaning and safety protocols for staff and students will be followed. Staff and students will be encouraged to follow physical and personal responsibility wellness expectations. Restrictions on parents and visitors in the building.

ENGAGEMENT LEVEL 2

Minimal to Moderate Community Spread--Seated School Instruction with Technology Support

Staff and students will access buildings and classrooms. Learning will be provided with a technology integration model. Options for seated and remote learning courses will align and be taught in the building with teachers. Current wellness protocols for staff and students will be followed. Visitors will be allowed in buildings by appointment only.

ENGAGEMENT LEVEL 3

Substantial Community Spread--Remote Learning

Students will receive instruction by teachers using remote learning from home and complete assignments by accessing virtual class platforms. All buildings will be closed to students and public.

Movement from Level 1 up to Level 2:

- Spread of COVID-19
- COVID-19 within school
- Guidance from health department

Movement from Level 2 up to Level 3:

- Increasing spread of COVID-19
- Multiple cases in school
- Guidance from health department
- Insufficient staff to support learning

SAFETY PRIORITIES

- ✓ Increased Cleaning
- ✓ Sanitation
- ✓ Wellness Screening
- ✓ Personal Responsibility
- ✓ Physical Distancing
- ✓ Personal Protective Equipment
- ✓ Limited Visitor Access
- ✓ Remote Learning Options
- ✓ Procedures for Exposure



Return to Learn Overview for the 2020-2021 School

OVERVIEW

The Cassville R-IV School District has taken steps to prepare for the health, wellness, and safety for all students and staff as we prepare for the 2020-2021 school year. Information listed below outlines general guidelines and expectations for each location/service. Decisions will be made in coordination with local and state guidelines.

*** Return to Learn Overview may be amended in response to health and safety updates.**

HEALTH SERVICES & PPE	<p>Level 1: Seated School Instruction with Health Precautions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School nurses will provide health and safety training/materials to faculty and staff • If you have medications for your child, please schedule a time with the school nurse to drop it off • Mask use will be in accordance with state, county, and board of education health expectations <p>Level 2: Seated School Instruction with Technology Support (In Addition to Level 1 Procedures)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation of Symptoms and Safety Protocol Flowchart will be provided to all staff members • Encourage staff self-screening everyday • Encourage parents to screen students at home prior to sending to school • Staff working with medically fragile students may be required to wear a mask <p>Level 3: Remote Learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nurses/counselors are available online and by phone during school hours for support and guidance
ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL	<p>Level 1: Seated School Instruction with Health Precautions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early rooms will be provided with physical distancing protocols when achievable • Students will use wash-in, wash-out procedures upon arrival to school <p>Level 2: Seated School Instruction with Technology Support (In Addition to Level 1 Procedures)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student drop off and pickup will be through the car line only • Students will use wash-in, wash-out procedures upon arrival to school • Common areas will be restricted when achievable <p>Level 3: Remote Learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will not be on campus during Level 3
TRANSPORTATION	<p>Level 1: Seated School Instruction with Health Precautions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buses will run with normal capacity • Buses will be cleaned and sanitized <p>Level 2: Seated School Instruction with Technology Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is highly recommended students provide their own transportation when operating at Level 2. • All students and staff members will be required to wear a mask while on a bus • Seating assignments will be intentional by family when appropriate, loading back to front • Hand sanitizer will be available and buses will be cleaned and sanitized after each use • Bus drivers have been properly trained in COVID-19 safety measures • Students will be encouraged to practice physical distancing while waiting for the bus <p>Level 3: Remote Learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation would not be needed during Level 3 during remote instruction



Return to Learn Overview for the 2020-2021 School

VISITORS	<p>Level 1: Seated School Instruction with Health Precautions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lunch guests and volunteers are permitted on a limited basis by appointment only <p>Level 2: Seated School Instruction with Technology Support (In Addition to Level 1 Procedures)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nonessential visitors will not be permitted in the building No lunch guests or volunteers in the building <p>Level 3: Remote Learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building is closed to outside visitors and guests
CLASSROOM & RECESS	<p>Level 1: Seated School Instruction with Health Precautions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students will be observed for illness prior to starting class and referred to nurse if necessary Appropriate measures will be taken for cleaning Time will be built into the day for frequent handwashing, especially after playground use <p>Level 2: Seated School Instruction with Technology Support (In Addition to Level 1 Procedures)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical distancing strategies will be implemented when feasible with students in cohorts Students will be taught appropriate hygiene/COVID practices Students will keep their own supplies for use in the classroom Personal water bottles will be encouraged and drinking fountains will be closed <p>Level 3: Remote Learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students will participate in remote learning and instructional activities during Level 3
CAFETERIA	<p>Level 1: Seated School Instruction with Health Precautions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All tables and chairs will be disinfected between each breakfast and lunch shift <p>Level 2: Seated School Instruction with Technology Support (In addition to Level 1 Procedures)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Breakfast and lunch will be on alternating schedules keeping students in cohorts with some classes eating in their classrooms to provide physical distancing options and reduced capacity <p>Level 3: Remote Learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students will not be on campus during Level 3
TRANSITIONS	<p>Level 1: Seated School Instruction with Health Precautions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Passing periods will be based on regular bell schedule <p>Level 2: Seated School Instruction with Technology Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Passing periods on alternating schedule when possible. Students will be monitored in hallways Movement throughout the building will be limited or reduced through the use of cohort groups Signage will be provided to promote physical distancing and travel directions <p>Level 3: Remote Learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students will not be on campus during Level 3
COVID RESPONSE	<p>If Suspected Case at School:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student should be taken to the building designated safe-spot and provided a mask to isolate while parent/guardian is notified Identify student exposure through contact tracing with other students and staff Contact Health Department and communicate with the public based on Health Department's recommendation Disinfect all targeted contact areas using proven practices <p><u>Guidance and Resources:</u> Barry County Health Department, CDC School Guidance, Missouri School Reopening Guidance, Department of Health and Senior Services Reopening Guidelines, MSBA Reopening Considerations.</p>

