



# Cedar Cliff Local School District

248 N. Main Street  
P.O. Box 45  
Cedarville, OH 45314-0045

July 21, 2020

To: Cedar Cliff Students, Community Members, and Staff

Re: Coronavirus Protocols

Dear Cedar Cliff Community:

I wanted to take some time to put forward the protocols for the start of the 2020-2021 school year. It is my hope that by getting this information out now, each of you will still have ample time to begin making preparations and plans for a smooth and efficient start to the school year. I know many of you have questions regarding the start of the year and are anxiously awaiting this information so you can make the best decisions you can regarding the upcoming school year.

Of course, I would have liked to put this information out sooner, but I wanted to wait for all the final guidelines/requirements from the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) and the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), as well as the local Greene County Public Health (GCPH) agencies.

There has been a tremendous amount of planning and discussion regarding the start of the school year. I am confident, whatever plans we may have, will undoubtedly change over the course of the school year. I have received a great deal of input from state agencies, other superintendents, Board of Education members, staff members, parents, and even students, in arriving at the following plan for the year.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the survey on-line and provide us your opinions. It really did influence our decision-making for alternative plans to the school year. It was also very evident that the vast majority of individuals preferred and wanted our students in school each day for the normal length of time. As a result, we took every measure we could to ensure that would happen—our plan calls for school to start on August 26 (for students) per the amended Board of Education approved calendar with all students at all grade levels in attendance.

In spite of our best efforts, some families may decide that a remote/virtual option better fits their concern level for their child. We understand that and, in conjunction with the Greene County Educational Service Center and the other Greene County Public School Systems, a remote option has been developed. This virtual option allows for any student grades K-12 to complete their education at home for the 2020-2021 school year. **We ask that parents and guardians notify their child's principal the week of August 3-7 (the deadline is August 7) if they desire this remote/virtual option.** It is also important to note, the district assumes the cost of this programming so any child whose family elects this learning style *must continue this choice through the first semester*. We simply cannot afford to pay for the materials and then not utilize the instruction.

The district plan for the start of the year is all-day / every-day. We took whatever steps necessary for this to be the start of the school year. However, if you have been reading news reports, you will have, undoubtedly, noticed some schools are starting the year with *alternative* or *blended* schedules. Although a blended schedule ***will not be put into place*** at Cedar Cliff for the start of the school year, one had to be developed. A blended schedule indicates that students will be in school for some periods of time, but will also be receiving instruction and/or completing assignments remotely for the time period school is closed for Coronavirus safety concerns.

The Cedar Cliff blended schedule, based on our community feedback, calls for every-day / half-day instruction. Each child will be assigned either a morning or afternoon schedule, allowing for a 50% reduction

*“Teach, Challenge and Develop...Mind, Body and Character”*

## Superintendent

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in the student population. We will be informing all parents of their child's session during the first week of August. It is important to note we attempted to address the following when selecting which session students were assigned:

- All family members were in the same session. We put painstaking time into not having, for example, an elementary student in the morning session and their HS sibling in the afternoon session. We understood, often, the older siblings are responsible for child-care while parents work. We wanted to honor the assistance to families.
- Students who participate in CCP at the high school level often need to leave campus, so an effort was made to allow for those students to leave and not interfere with outside scheduling.
- Transportation needed to have the same reduction of student population as the school. Therefore, an effort was made, for example, to not have a bus with 60 students in the morning session and 6 students in the afternoon session.
- Staff members have children in attendance and we need to have them be able to fulfill their job duties for all students, so we had to work with individual staff members to not interfere with school operations.
- Students at the HS level do not travel all day together like Elementary students. Therefore, an examination was made into each individual teacher's class list to ensure a true reduction took place on, as close to, a 50% reduction as possible.

As you can see, it is not a simple task to merely "cut" the student population in half and best work with individual student and/or family's needs. It is important to note, we developed this blended plan, hoping to never use it. The district felt we needed an intermediate step between all-day schooling and total remote learning and, after surveying the community, this option was the overwhelming choice.

The final plan which had to be developed was for "full-time remote instruction." This plan emulated the end of the 2019-2020 school year. While the district was successful in finishing the year, we understand, should the district be required to go "full-time remote" learning, a better method should be put into place. Therefore, some time was dedicated to ensuring this method of instruction would be more efficient and successful than previously attempted. Again, this plan was put into place with the intent to not be utilized during the year!

Each school district in the State of Ohio will be implementing safety and health measures as well as developing plans for the year. Each district's plans may be slightly different, but all districts will do what they deem necessary to ensure the utmost safety and security for their student population.

There may be parts to the Cedar Cliff plan that you enjoy seeing put into place, and there may be other components to the plan you do not wish the district to undertake. Quite honestly, there is no plan that will make 100% of the community "happy." But, as we embark on another, undoubtedly, unique and eventful year, I ask for patience, tolerance, and the commitment to our main and underlying purpose, *to educate our students, and keep them safe to the best of our abilities, under any circumstances.*

As always, feel free to contact the school should you have any questions. The principals return the first week of August and will be rapidly moving to get ready for the start of the school year.

As always, stay safe and Go Indians!



Chad Mason, Superintendent  
Cedar Cliff Local School District

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