

July 6, 2020

LaPorte and Starke County Families,

The LaPorte and Starke County public school corporations appreciate the patience and understanding of our families and communities during the last few months. Per Governor Holcomb's order, schools are allowed to resume normal schedules on July 1. The Indiana Department of Education, in conjunction with the Indiana Department of Health and the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration, released [guidance](#) for the reopening of Indiana schools. LaPorte and Starke County public schools have come together to share important information as we prepare to welcome your children back to school this fall.

At this time, all LaPorte and Starke County public schools will be starting on their scheduled date. The Oregon-Davis School Cooperation will have a full return of students and staff on August 6th. **However, this could change, depending on the regional COVID situation at that time.**

In conjunction with the LaPorte and Starke County Health Departments and the LaPorte and Starke County public schools, we will have a common response to confirmed cases of COVID-19 and ongoing consultation will inform the decisions to keep schools open.

The partnership between families and schools is always a key to student success. School staff will be receiving professional development on screening student health situations and parents are encouraged to monitor the health of their students and keep them home if they are not well. In the event that we are able to open schools in a traditional format, we will also:

- Recommend masks for students and staff in certain situations, including on a bus and some in-school settings.
- Require students and staff to be fever-free for 72 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication before returning to school.
- Maximize instructional space and scheduling flexibility.
- Employ enhanced cleaning procedures with additional hand sanitizer stations.
- Adjust lunches to maximize available open space and utilize alternate scheduling to adhere to safety guidelines.
- Identify and separate space in school buildings to treat symptomatic students.
- Restrict visitors and guests in our school buildings.
- Discontinue perfect attendance incentives.

Thank you again for supporting your LaPorte and Starke County public schools as we look forward to a safe reopening for the 2020-2021 school year.

