



**July 17, 2020**

**Update on ECSD Return to Learn Plan 2020-2021 School Year**

Dear ECSD Families and Staff,

On Wednesday, July 15, the ECSD Administrative Team presented an initial DRAFT **Return to Learn 2020-2021 Plan** to the School Board in preparation for the start of the 2020-2021 school year. The plan is undergoing additional revisions and consideration at this time as we progress toward a finalized plan that addresses the safety and academic needs of our students and staff. During the discussion of the plan, we heard public, staff, and School Board input that is helping guide the ongoing development of a finalized plan that we hope to have published in the coming weeks. As I'm sure you recognize, these are contentious and unprecedented times and the task we are attempting to tackle is both challenging and evolving daily. We appreciate your patience and understanding throughout this process.

Two major topics from the Board level discussion were as follows:

1. Recommendation vs. requirement of wearing face masks, and
2. Whether we offer an option for starting traditional classroom learning on September 1.

It has been determined that face masks will be required for all staff and students, while in buildings, throughout all three Rock County phases of reopening. We recognize that face masks are a critical tool in the fight against COVID-19.

Though our goal is to provide an option for traditional classroom instruction on September 1, this may not be entirely possible in an 'all students every day' format in all buildings depending on the current spacing and social distancing conditions related to COVID-19 and the corresponding guidelines established by the CDC, the State of Wisconsin and the Rock County Health Department Reopening Phased Plan. This decision will be part of the finalized plan that you will see in coming weeks.

We appreciate the ongoing support and feedback that we are receiving as we prepare for the start of the 2020-2021 school year. We plan to have detailed options for families by the end of this month with online registration from August 1-9, 2020 where parents can register their children and communicate their intentions (which includes virtual options) based off the options we provide. Also, we plan on hosting a community-wide Zoom meeting after options are published to address questions anyone may have -- date and time of this meeting will be determined. Please note that our options may be subject to change based on the ever-evolving nature of this pandemic situation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jerry Roth', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

**Jerry Roth**  
District Administrator