



July 13, 2020

Dear Cornerstone Cardinal Community,

If you are like me at all, you are anxiously awaiting word from Governor Cooper regarding the status for school in the fall. Despite the delay in the announcement, our COVID team has been working diligently to ensure that we are prepared for fall. This letter is a brief update on the status of our work as well as an invite to another Zoom meeting tomorrow Tuesday, July 14th at 7:00 p.m. For those who are unable to attend, I will record the Zoom and publish it so all can access it.

Our team quickly realized that by far the most challenging scenario for our school to manage would be if we returned to school in the “Plan B” situation. Plan B permits our school to operate at 50% of our student capacity. This would require our teachers to plan for three methods of instructional delivery, which includes live instruction in the building, remote instruction for students who are not in the building, as well as remote instruction for those students who opt-in to a fully remote instruction plan. For obvious reasons that is where we started our planning.

If the Governor requires us to return to school in a “Plan B” situation, the most likely arrangement for our school will be in a A-Day/B-Day attendance cohort plan. This plan has half of our students attending on Monday/Thursday, and the second half attending on Tuesday/Friday. This leaves Wednesday for our teachers to commit to the extensive planning required for this arrangement, as well as our facilities team to clean our building in a more indepth and less intrusive manner each week.

Our driving reasons for pursuing this configuration is that we believe it allows us to provide the highest quality education for our students, while still providing for a safe, clean, and sanitary environment for students. It allows teachers regular face to face instruction with students, it permits teachers to provide regular in-person feedback on student performance, and it allows them the greatest degree of flexibility for revising instruction and assignments as students work through the curriculum. In addition, it permits us to space students as well as provide cleaning services at regular intervals throughout the building.

I can assure everyone that we have considered a wide variety of arrangements for our students throughout the last few weeks, and in each one of them, there are things that are less than ideal. Trying to design a plan that balances the needs of students, families, teachers, and the school as a whole has been a significant challenge. We will continue to monitor events as they unfold in the coming weeks, and make revisions to our plans which we believe will be in the best interest of everyone.

I also know that there will be many questions regarding our approach, and those are very welcome! While we have extensively vetted different arrangements throughout this time, we are humble enough to acknowledge that there is no expert consensus on how to arrange school in the midst of a pandemic. Only by considering feedback carefully will we be able to feel most confident in our approach. With that in mind, I am hosting a Zoom meeting for all families tomorrow night at 7:00 p.m. The Zoom details are below, and will be sent out separately as well.

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Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6716823090?pwd=VXgyTG1DekdHVnNDTjAzWXFKOGhJQT09>

Meeting ID: 671 682 3090

Password: 8nDFyU

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,6716823090#,,,,0#,,519209# US (Germantown)

+13126266799,,6716823090#,,,,0#,,519209# US (Chicago)

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It is important to note that regardless of how we return, the requirements from the NC Department of Education require us to provide a fully remote option for our students and families. For the purposes of our planning, we would like to identify who would select that option and under which scenario they would choose it. In order to do that, we are asking all of our parents to complete a brief survey which can be found here: [Return to School Survey](#).

In the event that we return to school in either a fully remote instructional arrangement, or in a 100% return to the building situation, we will send additional information to our families on how we will manage it.

Finally, I would like to thank all of our families for their patience and commitment to Cornerstone. We will continue to do our best to work through these challenges together!

Sincerely,

Joe Caraher