

WILLOW SPRINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT 108
8345 Archer Avenue
Willow Springs, IL 60480

Frank C. Patrick, Superintendent
Lori Smuda, Principal

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October 9, 2020

Dear Willow Families:


We are preparing for a return to in-person school for our students. We don't have an exact date yet as we continue to monitor the positivity rate. We're hoping for early November.

We have been working on improving our Blended Model Plan for when students do return. Our new and improved plan is somewhat similar to the plan that Mrs. Smuda shared over the summer. Kindergarten through 2nd grade will be in the building everyday, along with self-contained special education students EC-5. Grades 3-8 will be split into 2 groups, Blue and Gold, so we can keep students 6' apart. One group will be in the building in the morning for 3 hours and the other group will receive instruction in the afternoon for 2.5 hours from their teacher. The groups will switch each week. Families that chose to have their kids receive Remote Only will always receive instruction in the afternoon. Why is the in-person day so much shorter? We've taken out lunch as eating indoors is one of the most risky behaviors that has been identified by the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control. Meals will still be available for pick up or to take home. We've also expanded the amount of time dedicated each day to remote learners.

Mrs. Smuda is hosting 2 information sessions to explain the Blended Learning Plan to you. The sessions will be Wednesday, October 14 at 10am. The same session will be offered on Wednesday, October 14 at 6pm. Links to those meetings will be sent out on Tuesday.

Following those sessions, we will be sending out a survey to all families so that you can select in-person or remote learning for your family. Because we will be carefully counting classroom seats to keep kids 6' apart while in the building, if you chose remote you will be choosing that through the end of January. In January, we will open up the options again for the remainder of the school year.

We look forward to seeing you at the information sessions next week. We are grateful for all the support you've given us and more importantly to your child's education. We're all working together during this strange time to keep our kids and families healthy while providing a solid educational program.

Sincerely yours,

Frank C. Patrick