



## MANTENO COMMUNITY UNIT DISTRICT No. 5

84 NORTH OAK STREET • MANTENO, ILLINOIS 60950-1522

PHONE (815) 928-7000 • FAX (815) 468-6439

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LISA M. HARROD  
Superintendent

July 21, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Manteno CUSD No. 5 has been working on a reopening plan for the past several weeks. During this time, we have studied the restrictions and guidelines from the Illinois State Board of Education, the Illinois Department of Health, and have been in contact with several other agencies who have aided in formulating our Framework for Returning to School in 2020-2021. Based on the results of the parent survey that went out, over 77 percent of parents/guardians intended to send their children to school if we were able to return to in-person instruction.

After thoughtful and thorough discussion, Manteno School District will be returning to In-Person Instruction beginning on August 19<sup>th</sup> at all district schools. We will be following the safety protocols issued by the State of Illinois, the Illinois State Board of Education, and the Illinois Department of Public Health. The return to in-person instruction follows the State of Illinois Face Covering Mandate. All students and staff members will be required to wear masks during the school day with breaks built in as it is safe to do so.

In-Person Instruction during Phase 4 of the Restore Illinois Plan is as follows:

- Students will be in attendance each day with an early dismissal time of 1:50 at Manteno Elementary School, 2:00 at Manteno Middle School, and 2:10 at Manteno High School. The morning start times are not affected.
- Transportation information will be sent out by our Director of Transportation.
- Parents will be required to self-certify students prior to sending them to school each morning. More information will be forthcoming on the procedures for self-certifying.
- All staff members will self-certify each morning before entering school buildings.
- Lunch will occur at all buildings.
- Social Distancing will be followed to the greatest extent possible, following the ISBE guidelines.
- Facemasks are required on buses and in all buildings at all times. Breaks will be given to students following safety protocols and best practice recommendations.
- There will be no congregating in hallways.
- Student movement in the building will be scheduled or limited to allow for a reduction in numbers.
- Student desks will be spread out and all unnecessary furniture will be removed from classrooms.
- Increased sanitation measures will be employed.
- We are working with IDPH and the Kankakee County Health Department on proposed plans for procedures when we have positive cases in our schools.

We understand that there are students who will be unable to return to in-person instruction due to a documented medical concern. Remote Learning will be available for these students who are able to provide each building principal



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with documentation from appropriate medical personnel by August 5<sup>th</sup>. Remote Instruction will be available in the core areas. Remote learning lessons will be delivered by Manteno School District staff using both interactive lessons and online platforms. Students with 504 Plans and Individualized Education Plans who are placed on remote learning and are eligible for speech, occupational therapy, etc. will be receiving these services during remote instruction.

As we plan for in-person instruction, we also know that there is a possibility for our state or schools in our region to be mandated to move back to Phase 3 and remote learning for all students. A committee has been formed to strengthen our expectations and accountability if we should find ourselves on full-time remote learning at any time during the school year. The committee will also be working on planning for enhanced experiences for those students who must enroll in remote learning due to documented medical concerns. We look forward to the day Illinois moves to Phase 5, which would mean a complete return to full-time traditional instruction.

We appreciate your patience as we work to educate our students during these challenging and uncertain times. Our children are resilient, and we celebrate their adaptability over the last several months. We cannot wait to see them again! We will continue to communicate with families both at the district and building level. Thank you for all of your support!

We are stronger together!

Lisa Harrod  
Superintendent  
Manteno CUSD No. 5