

Return to Learn at CGD - Frequently Asked Questions

Why did Clarion-Goldfield-Dows decide to return to school with all students and staff on August 24th.

From the beginning of our first conversations, we decided as a Leadership Team and School Board to follow the recommendations and control measures we've received from Iowa Specialty Hospitals and Wright County Public Health. Both organizations have given us the green light to return to school on August 24th with COVID safety precautions in place.

Could the learning model change during the school year?

Our Return to Learn Plan includes a flexible approach, understanding that we may start the school year with one instructional schedule and, as information becomes available about health and safety, we may transition to a different model.

What happens if there's a COVID-19 diagnosis in a school building?

If a CGD student or employee is diagnosed with COVID-19, the district will work with Wright County Public Health officials to determine the appropriate next steps.

Can I sign my child up for 100% online/remote school?

Yes. Families have the option to choose online learning for their students. Plans for the online model are ongoing and will be given to parents in full detail on or before August 20th.

How will online learning this fall be different from this past spring?

The State has mandated that we must deliver instruction for our students, keep mandatory attendance records, and make assessments of student achievement. This is to be done regardless of the delivery method. Students will receive instruction based on full course and grade level standards.

Will online courses be taught by a certified teacher? For example, my student is taking Algebra, if they do it online will they have a certified Algebra teacher?

Yes. The State of Iowa requires schools to have teachers licensed in the appropriate content area no matter which method of content delivery is being used.

Will my child have the same homework and lectures as the students in the school or will this be similar to what happened at the end of last year?

Online students will receive the same instruction on the same standards that in-school students receive. The experience will of course differ due to the differences in environment, but the instructional and attendance goals are the same.

How many families have currently elected to take the online-only option? Do you have an estimate of how many students will be in the building for in-person learning? This would be helpful information to have before we are required to make a decision to go in-person or online.

As of Wednesday, August 12th, 38 of our 1,000 students have chosen to use our online learning option this Fall.

Can my children participate in onsite activities if they choose the online option?

Yes, students that sign up for online learning will still be able to participate in onsite activities.

How do these plans impact extracurricular activities?

Extracurricular activities are allowed to take place based on guidance from several State and local agencies, including the Iowa Department of Education, [Iowa High School Athletics Association](#), and [Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union](#).

How will lunch be served? Can students still bring their own lunches?

Each building will serve hot lunch in their cafeteria. Students will also be able to bring their own lunches. However, bringing outside food like pizza for parties or birthday snacks will no longer be allowed in the buildings.

My student rides the bus. How will that work this year?

All students will be required to wear a facial covering and sit in an assigned seat on the bus. Students will not be allowed to consume food or drink while on the bus.

If my child has an IEP and we go to online learning will there be an option for my child to have face to face time with his teacher?

Please contact your student's teacher or your building principal for more information.

If my child forgets to bring a face mask to school, will one be provided for them to wear?

The district will provide one face shield to each student on the first day of school. The district will also have a supply of disposable face coverings on hand in the event that a student forgets to bring one to school.

When is the first day of school?

The first day of school for K – 12th grade is the previously Board approved start date of August 24, 2020. PreK classes begin on Monday, August 31st.

If my child travels out of Iowa, do they have to quarantine for 14 days before returning to school?

There is no quarantine required as long as the student has not had a known exposure to the virus and has no symptoms.

Can you please remind me how a decision was reached regarding a return to traditional school with all staff and students vs a hybrid model?

We started our discussion with Wright County Public Health and our local doctors in early July. Both professional health organizations have supported our return to traditional school with COVID 19 safety measures in place. We also recognize the importance of offering a stable and consistent school wide schedule for the families in our district. We know our "new normal" will look different but our teachers and leaders can't wait to see our kids again!