



School District of the City of Iron Mountain

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Good Afternoon Iron Mountain Families,

This is a short update from Iron Mountain Public Schools regarding our current status both locally and across the state concerning the state of public education. Yesterday, Tuesday, June 30, 2020, Governor Whitmer released her MI Safe Schools - Return to School Roadmap. This roadmap was created by the Return to School Advisory Council and Task Force composed of a number of state governmental agencies such as Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Michigan Department of Education, and State of Michigan Attorney General to name just a few. Likewise, the council consisted of educators, administrators, parents, students, and public health experts from across the state.

This roadmap outlines safety protocols that have either been labeled as "REQUIRED" (mandated by the Governors order), and or "Strongly Recommended" or "Recommended." The primary purpose for the safety protocols is to keep school communities safe based on the status of the coronavirus. Additionally, the Roadmap provides recommendations across mental and social-emotional health, instruction, and operations within each phase of the MI Safe Start Plan to support all schools in the state. Safety protocols that are labeled "Strongly Recommended" or "Recommended" are optional, and schools may choose to implement these safety protocols to minimize spread of COVID-19. The district understands the "Strongly Recommended" and "recommended" protocols and actions will not be appropriate or feasible in all settings, and we will implement these protocols as appropriate.

IMPS would like parents to know that specific guiding principles informed the instruction sections built within the Roadmap. Those guiding principles include:

1. Equitable access to learning is a right for each child
2. In collaboration with parents, students, and teachers, schools will use data and evidence to prioritize resources for each child.
3. Teachers and staff will prioritize deep meaningful relationships to create safe learning environments for each child.
4. Teachers and staff will empower the value, cultivation of relationships, and belonging of the student and parent voice in all aspects of learning and emotional support for families.

As of the time of this writing our district is in MI Safe Start Phase 5. This means schools can open for in-person instruction with moderate required safety protocols. Please keep in mind our status or Phase 5 label, could change in the coming weeks depending on what we are faced with as the Coronavirus pandemic continues.

In the coming weeks I will be meeting with area Superintendents and begin to develop the Iron Mountain Safe Return to School Plan. I will also be putting together a local task force to include teachers, administrators, support staff, students, and parents and ask this group to help in building our district plan. Once we have developed a plan, it will be brought before the Iron Mountain School Board of Education for adoption. IMPS will then communicate with parents the Safe Return to School Plan.

Iron Mountain staff along with community and parent support will be working very hard in the coming days and weeks to develop a plan that considers the education, emotional, and physical needs of all of our students. We believe the recommendations we will be putting forth and the protocols we follow will represent what is best for our students and those that can be reasonably implemented by the schools.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Please stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Jerry Sardina
Superintendent