

Monday, August 17, 2020

Dear PCCS families,

The purpose of this message is to provide information about PCCS' decision on a base learning model for the start of the 2020/2021 school year. This decision has been informed by the Minnesota Departments of Health and Education Safe School Learning guidelines and a review of Dakota and Rice County Public Health infection rate data.

PCCS will begin the year in a **hybrid base learning model**. Children in the green cohort will attend in-person on Monday and Tuesday and attend school via distance learning Wednesday - Friday. Children in the blue cohort will attend in-person on Thursday and Friday and attend school via distance learning Monday - Wednesday. Our indoor instructional spaces will be limited to 50% capacity with six foot distancing. Face-coverings will be required and regular hand washing and hygiene practices will be emphasized. Outdoor learning will be a key component of the hybrid in-person design. A survey is linked to this email that includes an opportunity for families to state a cohort preference. Cohorts will be announced on Monday, August 24.

Throughout the pandemic, we have sought to prioritize the well-being of children, families and staff. In response to the ever changing nature of this pandemic, we have made flexibility a core component of our planning. The hybrid model allows us to focus on health and safety priorities while being responsive to child, family and staff needs.

### **Distance Learning Only Option**

Families who are unable/do not wish to participate in the hybrid model can select the Distance Learning Only option. For planning and staffing purposes, we are asking families who choose this option to do so at least through November 6. We will endeavor to be responsive to necessary changes for students on a case by case basis.

### **Child Care**

Child Care will be available on non in-person days for eligible children of [Tier 1 critical workers](#). The PCCS fee-based After School Care program will be available for all children on their in-person days from 2:30pm - 5:45pm

### **Survey**

To assist with the detailed planning work that will be conducted over the coming weeks, we are asking families to complete [this survey](#) by noon on Wednesday, August 19. This brief survey has questions regarding Cohorts, Child Care, Distance Learning Only, transportation and technology.

### **Device Drop-Off**

We are asking families to return all iPads, Chromebook, headphones and power cords on Friday, August 21 between 9am and 11am so that they can be reconditioned for the coming school year. Please email [tech@prairiecreek.org](mailto:tech@prairiecreek.org) if you need to schedule a different drop off time.

### **Before School Conferences**

Family goal-setting conferences will take place with teachers on September 8 and 9. These will replace the previously scheduled conference days of September 24 & 25 on our calendar. More information will be forthcoming on conference sign ups.

### **First Instructional Day - September 10**

The first instructional day for all students (cohort and remote) will be Thursday, September 10. This is a change to prior communication that listed this day as September 14.

We have put countless hours into planning and preparation for this upcoming year over the last few months. Even so, we acknowledge that there is not a model, in this unprecedented situation, that will be perfect for every family.

You will have many questions. We will be working very hard to answer them all over the coming weeks. There are four essential stages you can anticipate in our before school communication:

1. Enhanced overview of hybrid and Distance Learning Only designs
2. Team level (grade K/1, 2/3 and 4/5) preview of the hybrid instruction design
3. Classroom level specific schedules and curricular detail
4. Virtual Conferences - child & family-centered goal-setting conversations

I've been saying this since March, but it bears repeating again, we are immensely grateful for your patience and understanding as we engage in this complex work.

Your kindness and support makes us determined to ensure that 2020/2021 will be a wonderful and memorable school year.

Sincerely,

Simon

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