



Steven C. Skalka, Ed.D.  
Superintendent  
223 W. Broadway  
Woodland, MI 48897

stevenskalka@lakewoodps.org  
616-374-8043  
www.lakewoodps.org

August 11, 2020

Dear Lakewood Parent, Guardian, or Staff Member,

At their meeting last night, the Board of Education approved the COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan required by Governor Whitmer's June 30<sup>th</sup> executive order. The required elements of the plan spoke primarily to health and safety issues for in-person instruction. Later today, we will be posting individual school information describing what in-person instruction will look like at that school such as arrival and departure, breakfast and lunch, moving through the halls, recess and PE, etc. But, what about what remote instruction will look like? The purpose of this letter is to provide you information regarding remote instruction.

If you have selected in-person for your student, please keep reading. Whether it be because a classroom, school building, or our region is moved back to Phase 3, it's possible that every student, family, and staff member will be engaged in remote instruction at some time during the 2020/21 school year.

My belief is that remote learning will:

- Be delivered better than it was last spring,
- Continually improve throughout the school year, and
- Never be the equivalent of in-person instruction.

Students are more successful with remote learning when they have:

- Consistent access to a device,
- Reliable internet connectivity, and
- Someone who can support them to maintain a regular schedule and assist them with their work.

The District is committed to offering a robust and rigorous remote program of instruction characterized by:

- Opportunities for face-to-face instruction and/or interaction between students and their assigned teachers daily,
- Students are taught by Lakewood Public Schools teachers using the Board of Education approved District curriculum (exceptions may include special interest/elective or advanced courses for which enrollment is minimal and available from a third-party provider),
- Assignments, such as would normally be provided in class or for homework, aligned to the daily learning targets, are given to and completed by students on a regular, if not daily basis,
- Assessments, such as tests, papers, or projects, aligned to the unit learning targets, are given to and completed by students at the end of each curricular unit,
- Every effort will be made to provide access to counseling services for personal and post-secondary support with a focus on identifying the social and emotional needs of students,
- Coordination between general, special education teachers, and service providers will occur to support students' instructional and supplemental needs as outlined in students' IEPs/504 plans, revising those plans necessary,

- It is expected that students participate daily, teachers record attendance daily, and non-participation by students in instruction will be referred to the building principal for follow-up with the student and his/her parent(s) to re-engage the student in regular daily instruction, and
- Students engaged in remote learning may return to in-person learning after each nine-week segment of the school year.

The District is also committed to helping families choosing to attend school remotely with technology limitations, but it cannot guarantee connectivity. I hope it is understood that school districts across the country are all looking to acquire devices (chromebooks, laptops, tablets, hotspots, etc.) that assist with remote learning but as a result, there are shortages and extended delivery wait times. It is also the case that the blessings we enjoy by being a rural community is problematic with respect to internet connectivity.

As I indicated earlier, there is the possibility that at some time, maybe more than one time, every student, family, and teachers will be engaged in remote learning. I've heard the term "rolling closures", similar to "rolling blackouts" be used to describe this possibility. As a result, I believe it is necessary for:

- Families who have selected in-person instruction and staff members with children at home to plan for any childcare needs now in the event your student's or your classroom or school is required to transition to remote learning,
- All teachers, including those that begin teaching in-person, begin preparing to "go remote",
- The District to communicate remote instruction time schedules developed for full-time remote instruction students to all parents so that they can have a remote instruction plan for their student,
- The District to continue to provide teachers with resources and training for remote learning, and
- The District and community come together to acquire additional devices for student use and extended connectivity.

I hope you found this information helpful. If you have not yet let us know whether your student is returning to school in-person or remotely, please do so as soon as possible as principals and counselors are finalizing teacher and student schedules. You may indicate your preference at [www.lakewoodps.org/returntolearn](http://www.lakewoodps.org/returntolearn) or by calling 616-374-8043.

Please don't hesitate to contact your building principal or me regarding any other questions you may have.

Be safe,



Steven C. Skalka