

Date:

8/11/20

Subject:

School Board Decision: Start of School Year

Email:

Urbandale CSD Families and Staff,

During last night's School Board meeting on August 10, the Urbandale CSD Board of Directors approved the Hybrid instructional model to begin our school year. All schools, including Rolling Green, will operate within the Hybrid model beginning Tuesday, August 25.

As a reminder, the Hybrid model is a combination of in-person instruction and remote (online) instruction. On any given day, we'll have half of our students in a building which will help improve our ability for social distancing. We'll be informing families/students later this week regarding student assignments for Hybrid Teams (either Team J-Hawk or Team U). Please review this brief summary of the Hybrid Instructional Model.

Hybrid Instructional Model

- Two groups of students for in-person instruction
- Designated days for instruction:
 - Track "A" attends in person on Tue/Thurs (Team J-Hawk)
 - Track "B" attends in person on Wed/Fri (Team U)
 - Mondays alternate - Track "A" one week; Track "B" the next week
 - Attempts will be made to keep siblings on the same schedule unless a specific request from a family is made not to do so.
 - Late starts for grades K-8 move to Mondays so as not to disproportionately impact one group of students (late starts provide professional learning and collaboration time for staff) Note: This change for "late start Mondays" is not specific to the Hybrid model as this is a calendar change that will be applied to all models.
 - UHS students will not have late starts on Mondays, instead they will have early dismissals on Wednesday and Thursdays. This follows the same early dismissal process that UHS has had in previous years.
 - All full-day preschool students will attend school five days per week (half-day preschool students will attend school four days per week Tuesday - Friday) when the District is following the Hybrid instructional model and the On-Site instructional model. If the District is in the Required Continuous Learning model (all online), then preschool would be online as well.
 - When UCSD is in a Hybrid instructional model, Adventuretime will provide childcare programming for students during before/after school hours on the days they attend school. Monthly fees will be adjusted at the end of the month based on the number

of days that before/after school programming was offered. Information will be communicated to families regarding refund/credit options.

Update: Iowa Department of Education Meeting

During a Special School Board meeting on August 3, the Urbandale CSD Board of Directors unanimously approved Rolling Green Elementary maintaining its existing instructional model (Required Continuous Learning) for two more weeks (through August 20) to help protect the health and safety of students and staff given the high level of community spread of COVID-19 in Polk County. Following Governor Reynold's press conference on August 4, Urbandale CSD received a meeting invitation from the Iowa Department of Education (DE) to discuss plans regarding the instructional model for Rolling Green Elementary as the DE's approval of Required Continuous Learning expired on August 6.

District representatives met with the DE on Friday, August 7. During that meeting we learned that the expectations did not change from either the Governor's office or the Iowa Department of Education. Exemptions could only be approved by the DE in two week segments of time and UCSD's rationale did not meet their criteria for extended exemption. We are in the process of determining the best approach to bring resolution to this matter and we will keep you informed of our progress.

Thank you again for your patience and support as we continue to extensively plan and prepare to welcome students and staff back to school on August 25.

Sincerely,

Steve Bass
Superintendent