



Great Schools in a Great Community

Dear Clarke School Families,

We hope that you and your family have been able to enjoy a safe and healthy summer break. The past few months have been challenging for our community; we recognize that there are many questions about what the return to school plan will look like for students. Our staff has worked closely with the Berrien County Health Department to prepare a plan that will allow us to return to school safely. School begins on September 8th, and the intention is to return to daily Face-to-Face Instruction as long as the State of Michigan remains in Phase 4 of the Michigan Safe Start Plan in response to COVID-19.

At Clarke, we will be putting measures in place to create grade-level cohorts to reduce the number of contacts for each student, and we will observe social distancing when possible. The attached plan includes detailed information and expectations. Some important points from our plan are below:

- Face masks will be required at all times in the building. Students with a medical issue that prevents them from wearing a mask must provide a doctor's note stating as such.
- It is crucial that families self-screen students before attending school each morning. It is also critical that all students have multiple emergency contacts listed. If your child becomes ill, an adult will be required to pick them up as soon as possible, and they will not be permitted to board the bus at the end of the day.
- Students will have the opportunity to use the restroom throughout the school day. Safety procedures will be in place.
- We will not be sharing supplies in the classroom. SJPS will supply all necessary supplies. If you choose to purchase supplies for your child or for donating, a suggested supply list will be provided in our back to school communications.
- Students should bring a reusable water bottle each day that can be refilled at our bottle filling stations. Drinking fountains will not be available for use.

As always, student safety is our top priority. If you have any questions regarding our plan or your child's return to school, please feel free to contact me at jlafayette@sjschools.org.

Sincerely,

Jessica LaFayette, Principal