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Dear CPS Families,

Our schools are nearly ready for the kick-off to a new school year. This year will clearly be different from past years, but working together, we will all grow from this experience. Our teachers and staff will utilize next week to prepare for classes. It is our hope to begin a full in-person school experience on October 5. We will assess conditions in our community and county, and in partnerships with local health officials, to make a final determination to when students will all return to schools. As a reminder, Cohort A will begin in-school classes on Monday, August 31 and Cohort B will begin in-school classes on Thursday, September 3. The first week of school will be for organizational purposes, learning new routines, and getting-to-know-you activities. As teachers have not met students in Cohort B, activities posted for remote learners on August 31 will be short and also focused on getting-to-know-you activities.

As we begin the school year in a hybrid model, we wanted to share an overview of expectations. The hybrid model will require students to participate in learning activities in the traditional school setting and remotely. When students are participating in a hybrid or full remote learning model, attendance will be monitored and grades will be assigned.

Each school will have a different schedule to reflect best practices to support elementary age students and middle school-aged students. At CES teachers will prepare learning activities for Cohort A and Cohort B. When either Cohort is learning from home in the remote model, parents should expect students to watch a brief mini-lesson video and then complete an assignment related to the mini-lesson. In the upper elementary grades, students may be required to submit work through Google Classroom or at times return their work to school during their in-school session. Students in the primary grades will use an online program called Seesaw. Further details and expectations will be forthcoming.

At the middle school level, each subject area will be using in-person and mini-lesson videos to support each lesson. Similar to the upper elementary students, students working remotely will be required to watch videos and engage in learning activities while at home working remotely. At times, students will submit work through Google Classroom or return work while they are attending in-school sessions.

We understand that some children may require additional assistance while working remotely. Since your child's teacher is teaching in-school sessions simultaneously, we are working to identify additional supports for students who are learning remotely.

Whether your family has elected to participate in the hybrid model or full-remote model, your child will need to access the internet and have a device to complete work from home.

Canterbury Public Schools is expected to receive 200 new Chromebooks by mid-October. Our current supply of devices to distribute to families is limited. It is our intention to ensure every family has access to the internet and at least one device at home. Once we receive our additional inventory we will distribute more devices to families with multiple students.

If your family is in need of a device and/or access to the internet, please complete the attached survey.

<https://tinyurl.com/y3msqyfh>

Steven Rioux,

Superintendent of Schools