



# KEARSLEY Community School District

Where pride, tradition  
and excellence meet

4396 Underhill Drive • Flint, MI 48506 • (810) 591-8000 • [www.kearsleyschools.org](http://www.kearsleyschools.org)

July 23, 2020

Kearsley Families,

With the uncertainty regarding the opening of the upcoming school year, I want to give you an update on how plans are progressing to reopen in the fall. We have been working diligently on the many different aspects of school reopening, however we also know that we will modify our plan as guidance and legislation continue to change. While all details of our plans have not been finalized, we would like to at least share the basics of our plan so that parents and students can start to have discussions about the options Kearsley will provide students. What we do know for sure is that regardless of the phase our region is in, the district has moved to become a 1:1 district and has tablets ready for all of our kindergarteners and Chromebooks ready for all students in first through twelfth grade.

The State of Michigan "Return to School Roadmap" allows for different plans at different phases of the Coronavirus epidemic. We are currently in Phase 4. However, if at any time the state moves our region (Region 1) back to Phases 1-3, all of our students will be learning remotely online per the State of Michigan. If this were to occur, please understand that your child's experience will be very different from what they experienced last spring. In addition to the growth of our teachers in delivering curriculum online last spring, Kearsley teachers will be receiving professional development in August regarding the design, implementation and delivery of online instruction. It is our intention to have online instruction more closely resemble the pace, learning, feedback, and expectations of a regular school experience.

In all of our plans, we understand the need to get our students back into the classrooms while also making every effort to provide as much social distancing as practicable to minimize any safety concerns for students, parents, and staff. However, without the ability to double the number of classrooms and teachers in the district, we are not able to return to "normal". If our region remains in Phase 4 we are developing plans for two options for parents based on their comfort level. The plans do vary based on the age of the students as learning and independence varies greatly by age.

In Phase 4, the first option that we are working on, per the Return to School Roadmap, will include a hybrid learning plan that will look different at each level. Our younger learners, students in kindergarten through fifth grade, will attend school five (5) days a week, spending half of the day with their classroom teacher and half the day working on their Chromebooks and tablets with interventionists and support personnel under the guidance of the classroom teacher.

---

## Board of Education

President DesRae Joubran  
Vice President Chad Langworthy  
Secretary Dr. Chad Boggs  
Treasurer Dr. Charles Wade

Trustee Debra Alburnus  
Trustee Richard Hill  
Trustee Jeff Natzke

## Administration

Kevin Walworth, Superintendent of Schools  
Paul Gaudard, Assistant Superintendent

This allows our kids to maintain social distancing throughout the full school day and helps minimize employment concerns for parents. At the middle school and high school levels, students will be in school two days a week and learning remotely from home three days a week. Smaller in-person class sizes every day will allow us to maintain social distancing precautions in the school building, with fewer students on buses, and allows us the greatest opportunity to keep all of our students and staff members healthy, allowing school to continue as normal as possible. In addition, student movement in the buildings will be minimized and heightened cleaning and safety precautions will be implemented and adhered to.

The second option we are currently working on is a 100% online option for those families that are not comfortable with sending their students back into the school buildings. Our intention is to have these students taught in a virtual setting by a highly qualified Kearsley Community School teacher. While we greatly appreciate our parents completing our surveys earlier in the spring and summer, you will have the option to officially opt into this 100% online option during the first week of August.

Our sincere desire is for our region to move to Phase 5 where we can return to a five day schedule for all students. At this time, however, we do not feel that five days a week with every student in attendance is possible while continuing the strongly recommended social distancing that is necessary. We look forward to returning to an in-person five day school week at some point during the 2020-2021 school year based on our region's status of the Coronavirus epidemic, and feel that the hybrid model will allow us to transition seamlessly to either Phase 5 (five day school week model) or Phase 3 (100% online model) if necessary.

Again, we anticipate some modifications to our reopening plan and will share specific details for each grade level as we move closer to the start of the school year. As stated earlier, our greatest desire is a return to "normal" but our first priority is the safety of our students and staff members.

Thank you for your patience as we continue to modify our plans for re-opening. We appreciate your ongoing trust, support and understanding as we work through this very challenging time together.

Thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Walworth". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and "W".

Kevin Walworth  
Superintendent