



LAGRANGE HIGHLANDS DISTRICT 106 2021-22

Dear Highlands Community,

As we prepare for a new school year, we are excited about the opportunity to get back to many of the things that makes school exciting and engaging for students. The ongoing development of our plan for the upcoming year has been guided by a set of beliefs about Highlands' schools and community. Before getting into the specifics of the plan, we want to share those beliefs that have been guiding our work.

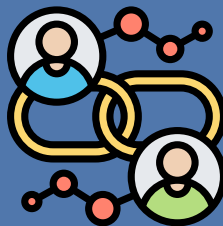
- Highlands' parents, staff, administrators, and school board are highly committed to the success of our students.
- Our students benefit from these four groups working collaboratively and supporting each other's unique and important roles in the District.
- Every day of learning matters.
- Instruction is most effective when students and teachers are in-person.
- It is vital that we educate the whole child, focusing on physical safety, social and emotional well-being, and academic growth.

It is going to be a great year!

John Munch
Superintendent



**PRIORITIZE
STUDENT
SAFETY**



**BUILD
STRONG
CONNECTIONS**



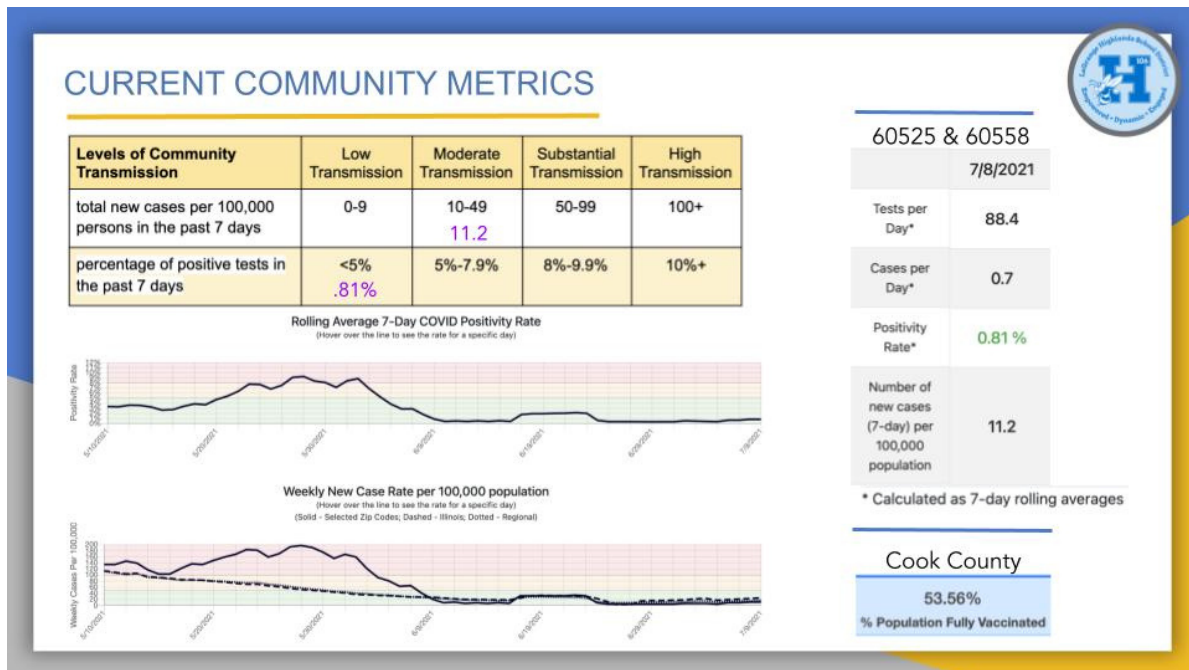
**FACILITATE
MEANINGFUL
LEARNING**



Local, State, and National Guidance

On July 9th, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released updated guidance on COVID-19 prevention in K-12 schools. On that same day, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) fully adopted the CDC's guidance. Since then, ISBE and IDPH have shared additional information and are anticipated to provide further clarification and guidance in the coming weeks.

While the current guidance provides some recommendations, it seems to give local school districts the ability to make decisions that are best for their community based on an assessment of local health metrics.



In the weeks ahead, D106 will monitor our local COVID metrics, consult with local health authorities, consider legal guidance, and collaborate with our staff and surrounding districts to make informed decisions about the upcoming school year. A final plan regarding masking and other preventative strategies such as the ones listed below will be communicated to all Highlands parents and staff during the first week in August.

- Cleaning & sanitation efforts
- Face coverings
- Social distancing
- Self-certification requirements
- Hand washing
- Locker use
- Directional hallways/stairs
- Student arrival and dismissal
- Quarantine requirements
- Lunch and recess

As vaccinated students do not need to quarantine if they are in close contact with a positive case, we anticipate asking parents to voluntarily provide their child's vaccination status before the start of the school year.



In-Person Learning

Per a recent declaration from State Superintendent of Education Dr. Carmen I. Ayala, all students are expected to return to in-person learning. The only time we are to provide remote learning is when an unvaccinated student is under quarantine as required and defined by IDPH.

“Beginning with the 2021-22 school year, all schools must resume fully in-person learning for all student attendance days, provided that, pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/10-30 and 105 ILCS 5/34-18.66, remote instruction be made available for students who have not received a COVID-19 vaccine or who are not eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine, only while they are under quarantine consistent with guidance or requirements from a local public health department or the Illinois Department of Public Health.”

To the greatest extent possible, in-person learning will return to our pre-COVID normal. This includes:

- Offering all levels of courses in the middle school
- Students moving throughout the day to their classes
- Providing students with the opportunity to participate in clubs, intramurals, sports, and other enrichment activities.
- Five full days of school per week.

Social and Emotional Learning

We will continue to strengthen social & emotional learning and provide targeted supports for those demonstrating additional needs through the use of:

- Second Step, our district-wide universal social-emotional curriculum.
- Building specific supplemental resources and connective practices (i.e. Responsive Classroom and Project Wisdom).
- A universal social-emotional screener to better understand district trends as well as to identify at-risk students.
- Increased social work staffing to support district goals and student needs.

Addressing Learning Gaps

Utilizing MAP, AIMSweb, and local assessment data, we will identify areas of focus for students. Pre-assessment data will guide lesson development in ELA and Math to address any standards that students need to be taught for each unit. As needed, we will provide interventions outside the regular classroom (ES) as well as during WIN (ES) and workshop classes (MS).

Response to intervention is most effective when supportive instruction is delivered in person.

- Student supports, inclusive of related services, will be delivered in person.
- The support staff will return to all service models as noted on individual plans, inclusive of in-class support models.
- Early Childhood classrooms will return to full capacity.
- Parents will be offered a choice as to how they wish to participate in IEP/504 meetings (in-person or via Zoom).



Remote Instruction

Instruction for Quarantined Students

If the school requires a student to quarantine and the absence is anticipated to be five days or more, remote live-stream instruction will be provided in math and reading (grades K-4) and in math and language arts (grades 5-8). Asynchronous work for early childhood, science, social studies, and world language will also be provided.

It is important to note that remote instruction:

- Will not be provided as an alternative to in-person learning for students who are not required to isolate or quarantine.
- Will only be provided for quarantine-related absences that are anticipated to be five days or more.
- Will not be provided for absences that are due to family travel, doctor appointments, short-term non-COVID-related illness, etc.
- Will begin on the third day of the absence so as to provide the classroom teacher time to prepare for remote instruction.

Instruction for Homebound Students

As in previous years and as required by school code, students who are unable to attend school due to a significant medical condition will be considered for instruction and services consistent with the District's homebound instruction policies.



Next Steps

The Highlands administration will continue to monitor our local health metrics and evolving guidance to make the best decision possible for the upcoming school year. We will provide additional information the first week in August regarding masking and other details for the upcoming school year. All information will be shared via email and posted on our website.

Our parent advisory committee will utilize their quarterly meetings to review and, as appropriate, revise our learning plan. Additionally, the public is welcome to provide comments to the Board of Education at any meeting.