



# Starmont Community School District

STrawberry Point • ARLington • LaMONT  
3202 40<sup>th</sup> Street • Arlington, Iowa 50606-8199

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**Superintendent**  
(563) 933-4598

**Middle/High School**  
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**Elementary School**  
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July 28, 2020

Starmont School Community:

The Starmont Board of Education and Administrative Team appreciate your patience as we work through this unprecedented and unpredictable time in education. With that said, I would like to update you on where we have been and what is going to happen at the School Board meeting on August 10, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.

We are planning on presenting our most updated version of our “tentative” Return to Learn Plan for the coming school year at this meeting. I say “tentative” as this is such an unknown and fluid situation that our guidance and local conditions may change at any time. The Return to Learn Plan provides a framework for three instructional formats: face-to-face, online, and a hybrid.

All schools have created a plan for each of these models, and we may need to move between these three formats throughout the school year dependent on local conditions. The Return to Learn Plan is the collective and collaborative effort of many stakeholders: staff, administrators, and School Board, with survey input from the community, local health officials, and the Iowa Department of Education.

The plan includes the following components: leadership and infrastructure, health and safety, academic standards, social-emotional-behavioral health, equity, and data collection and monitoring. Our mission has remained intact throughout this time – to commit all district resources to provide students and staff with a high quality of education. Our delivery models may be changing, but our focus on student achievement and well-being has not.

**The Return to Learn Plan will be posted to the website prior to our Board meeting on August 10.** The Administrative Staff met with the School Board to get direction and approval in July, but it was decided that final approval will come in August. At our July meeting, it was determined that we will begin the school year with our Face-to-Face component (or our “New Normal”), with the option of Online Learning for some.

This will allow us to abide by Senate File 2310 issued by Governor Reynolds, which recently requires a minimum of 50% face-to-face attendance per week. Therefore, in this letter, I’m not going to review the other academic options (on-line or hybrid); but they will be reviewed at our Board meeting.

**Items that will be discussed at our August 10 Board Meeting include:**

1. Our School Calendar will change on August 10 (adding 1:00 dismissal the first week of school)
2. We will be talking about our three academic Return to Learn Plans
3. We will be talking about PPE (temperature checks, face coverings, etc.)

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“IN PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION”



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4. We will talk about survey data collected from the public
5. We will talk about any Department of Education Updates
6. We will talk about any Health Department updates
7. We will talk about our Student Management System (Google Classroom)

Our plan at this time is to have our August 10 Board meeting by Zoom. If we have it in person, I will certainly get the message out; but if we still use Zoom, look for the Zoom link and password on Powerschool or Iowa Alerts in the next couple of weeks.


#### **Closing Comments:**

I feel confident in saying I know staff, students, and parents want more concrete information than I am providing today. Please know I am in that same position. Things are changing at a more rapid pace than most can fathom. Just today the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released new and updated guidance to schools. We are also hearing that the Department of Education may have updated information later this week. In both situations, it will take us time to digest and consider how this will impact Starmont Schools.

I also know there are people who will disagree with the recommendations I plan to make to our Board of Education, and that is alright. There is no decision in the current environment that can make everyone happy, because unfortunately, many decisions sometimes feel like lose-lose propositions. I will continue to operate under the priorities when we first started this endeavor. My first priority is the long-term health and safety of our students and staff.

#### **2020-21 School Registration**

**Starmont will open our newly created online registration August 4-10th. We are hoping that most registrations can be done online without the need to enter our building, however for those who need assistance may come to the school on August 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> from 9-3. Please call the office with any questions (563) 933-2218. The information in our registration packets is vital information to help the school update student and family data in our student management system.**

 Thank you,

Troy L. Heller, Superintendent  
Starmont Community School District

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