

August 3, 2020

We know you have many questions as we prepare for the 2020-2021 school year. Our staff has been busily preparing for students. Safety is our number one priority. We have made decisions based on the requirements and recommendations given in the **MI Safe Schools: Michigan's 2020-21 Return to School Roadmap**. Central Montcalm has also been gaining guidance from the **Mid-Michigan Health Department**.

Although we feel secure in the plans we have made, we would be remiss if we did not mention that these plans **may change** due to a change of Phase for our school. We are currently in **Phase 4**. Here are some answers to some frequently asked questions.

1. *What will the expectations be for the use of masks?*

**Masks** will be required for students at the UE when in common place areas: **bathroom, hallway, and library**. Masks will be required on the **bus**, as well as using hand sanitizer upon entry. In the classroom, students may take their mask off unless working in close proximity to the teacher or other students. Staff will be wearing masks at all times unless eating. If a student or staff member is unable to medically tolerate a mask, they will not be required to wear one. However, a note and explanation must be provided from a doctor. Students will remain in their classrooms for the majority of the day.

2. *What will Physical Education, Music and Library classes look like?*

The PE and music teachers will be going into your child's classroom. At this time, singing is not recommended. We will hold PE class outside as much as possible. Students will be able to go to the Library once a week with their class. The library will be cleaned after every use and we will have large breaks between use.

3. *What will recess look like?*

Students will have two 15 minute recesses. They will be able to take their masks off but will need to continue to be mindful of social distancing. The playground will be divided into 4 sections. Each classroom will have a section to use and this will be rotated daily. In Phase 4 classroom peers will stay together and not mix with other classrooms. Paraprofessionals will supervise on the playground and will be wearing masks whenever they are within 6 feet of the students.

4. *Will there be an Open House? Will I be able to be in the building?*

At this time, we are not allowed to have anyone beyond the office area except students and staff. There will not be an Open House or any large gatherings.

5. *I'd like to transport my child. What will drop off look like?*

Students can be dropped off in our **new drop off loop**. Vehicles will not be allowed to be parked or unattended in the loop. Students will not be allowed to be dropped off before **7:45 am**.

6. *What will end of day pick up look like?*

End of day pick up will change quite a bit from what it has looked like in the past. We have a beautiful new drop off and pick up lane that was constructed this summer. At this time, we are currently still working on the plan. Please watch our Facebook page for updates.

7. *What supplies will my child need?*

Students will need **masks**. Disposable masks will be made available if needed. We will be changing all of our drinking fountains to bottle-filling stations. If your child has a **water bottle** that they would like to use at school, they are welcome to do so. Bottles will be provided to those in need. In addition, individual classroom teachers may send home a suggested supply list.

8. *Will my child be required to pass a health screener every day? Will the staff?*

We will be sending home recommended **screening** details to each family. We need everyone to screen their child before sending them to school. Staff will be filling out a health screener every day.

9. *If I change my mind, can my student switch to the Hornets from Home virtual learning option?*

Changes in an instructional delivery method can only be made at semester time (January). If a student signs up for the *Hornets from Home* virtual option and wishes to switch to in person instruction, they can only do so at that time. The same is true for any student who starts the year with in person instruction and would wish to switch to the *Hornets from Home*.

10. *What will happen if our district is moved to a different phase?*

If Central Montcalm is in Phases 1-3, in-person instruction will no longer be allowed. We will be using a blended learning plan that will have on-line learning instruction provided by the teacher and learning packets. If Central Montcalm is in Phases 4-6, learning will be in-person with safety precautions followed.

11. *How will my child know when or where to wear a mask?*

At CMUE, we will have signs posted- "**Mask Zone**" in common areas. We will also be posting signs teaching good handwashing, a proper way to wear a mask and how to cough safely. Our teachers will also be teaching all of the new expectations at the beginning of the year and acknowledging the following of the expectations.

12. *What if a child refuses to wear a mask?*

Without a medical reason provided, the act of not wearing a mask will be considered an act of defiance. We will continue to educate the child on the importance of the mask and contact parents to work together to solve the problem. If we cannot come to a solution, a student may be placed in a virtual learning program.

13. *Where will my child eat breakfast and/or lunch?*

Breakfast and Lunch will be provided free of charge during the 2020-2021 school year. Students will be eating in their classroom and will be supervised by paraprofessionals.

14. *What will happen if my child is diagnosed with COVID-19, someone in their class is diagnosed or a staff member is diagnosed?*

Our school will reach out to the Mid-Michigan Health Department for guidance on how to handle any possible COVID-19 diagnosis or exposure.