August 14, 2020

Dear CLMS Parents and Guardians,

We hope this e-mail finds you all healthy and enjoying your summer!

We have been hard at work planning for reopening with the goal of providing the most engaging, supportive and meaningful educational experience possible, while at the same time, adhering to health and safety protocols. We would like to share some of our plans in this e-mail, and there will be additional information sent to specific cohorts and groups of students next week.

As you are aware from district communication, Waterford Public Schools will be returning to school using a hybrid model. At CLMS, this means students with last names beginning with A-K will be in “Group A” and will attend school in person on Mondays and Tuesdays, with synchronous distance learning taking place Wednesday- Friday. Students with last names beginning with L-Z will be in “Group B” and attend school in person on Thursdays and Fridays, and be involved in distance learning Monday-Wednesday. Students whose families have opted for full distance learning, “Group C,” will be joining their classroom virtually in our synchronous model daily, Monday- Friday.

ALL students, regardless of group, have been assigned to a specific cohort, a class of students approximately 17–22 in total. Essentially, cohorting at CLMS is a “homeroom” of students who will remain in that one classroom for the majority of the day. Teachers will rotate in to each classroom for all of the core courses and the majority of the non-core instruction. More details will be coming about the daily schedule for each cohort.

Each cohort will have some students on full distance learning (Group C) and the remainder of the cohort will be made up of students in Groups A and B. This means that on any given day, the number of students physically in the classroom will be generally less than 10. We feel quite confident that this plan will allow for the appropriate social distancing.

Next week, we will send specific cohort assignments, which will identify the team of teachers your child will have during the day. We will also be sending out more specific information about how we will support our 6th graders in their transition to middle school, and all of our students back to school in these unusual circumstances.

We have worked very hard to create a new learning environment that is fully responsive to the health conditions we find ourselves in. There are very detailed plans for students arriving at school, having lunch, moving through the halls, using the bathroom, attending specials and interventions, using materials, accessing the nurse, and being dismissed for either parent pick up or the bus. All of these actions, that seemed so typical and simple in the past, have been reworked to account for social distancing, contact-tracing, sanitizing, optimizing cleaning, reducing the chances for infections, isolating people reporting symptoms, reducing any type of crowding, and protecting vulnerable people. We have followed the guidance of both the CSDE and Waterford School District’s reopening plans.
We will be holding a presentation of our reopening plan with a question and answer session **on Thursday, August 20th from 5-6 PM via livestream** with submitted questions. We will provide the link next week. We hope that you can send us your questions in advance at [jsachs@waterfordschools.org](mailto:jsachs@waterfordschools.org) by next Tuesday at 10 PM so that we may cover them in the Thursday session. If you have any urgent questions prior to that session, please email us as well.

We thank you for your patience as we rethink how we deliver the Clark Lane experience to your children in these unpredictable times.

Most Sincerely,

James M. Sachs, Principal
Tracy L. Moore, Assistant Principal