



HASTINGS AREA SCHOOL SYSTEM

232 West Grand Street • Hastings, Michigan 49058 • (269) 948-4400 • FAX (269) 948-4425
Web Site: www.hassk12.org

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July 8, 2020

Hello Saxons,

As we all come to grips with the events our students, families, and staff missed out on during the 2019-2020 School Year, it is time to start looking forward to next school year, and have a positive outlook on the future and make the best of our current reality. At Hastings Area School System we are committed to controlling what we can control...our attitude, our outlook, our approach to our jobs, and how we treat each other. That is what we are going to do, and we hope you will join us. What we cannot control, we will make the best of.

As you may be aware, the Governor released Michigan's "[Return to School Roadmap](#)" last week. This plan lays out specific steps all Michigan districts must follow in order to open schools to face-to-face instruction, based on what "Phase" the virus is in, in various regions of the state. The phases are as follows:

Phases 1-3	Virus is prevalent	Off-Site Instruction Only
Phase 4	Cases/Deaths are falling, but levels are still high	Various Required, Strongly Recommended, and Recommended, Steps
	<u>Required Steps in Phase 4 include:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Facial coverings for all staff at all times except while eating● Facial coverings for all while on a bus● Facial coverings for all PK-12 while in common areas and hallways except while eating● Facial coverings for all in classrooms for grades 6-12	
Phase 5	New cases are declining, active cases are less common	The above "Required" steps become "Highly Recommended"
Phase 6	Post Pandemic	No Requirements

We are in Region 3, and we are currently in Phase 4 of the virus. It is important to note that this is where we are NOW. Our Phase could change (either for the better or worse) prior to the start of the school year. We do NOT want our kids in masks, so we are hoping that we will be in Phase 5 by the start of the school year. There are exceptions to the mask requirement (health issues like asthma, allergies, etc.) as well, so students and staff with these conditions will be excluded from wearing a mask.

All public schools are required to establish a plan for Phases 1-3, Phase 4, and Phase 5. Once we have the template from the State of Michigan, we will be working on each plan, and when those plans are established, we will communicate those to all. Along with communicating these plans, we will also ask all parents to complete a brief survey to communicate their intentions for the 2020-21 School Year (if you prefer onsite/offsite instruction, will you be utilizing transportation, etc.),

so please be looking out for that and have discussions with your family and kids to determine your preferences. PLEASE know that if you are considering homeschooling or using an online resource for your student(s), Hastings Area School System WILL be providing online schooling as an option for all students (along with all necessary resources) and we encourage you to consider this option if you are not comfortable sending your kids to school.

This is certainly going to be an interesting and challenging year. We must be flexible as it is very possible that, due to Executive Order or the increased spread of the pandemic in our region, we could be 100% face-to-face one day and 100% virtual the next day. We truly believe that the best place for our kids is in school, with their friends, a caring staff, and some sort of normalcy. We will be doing all that we can to ensure that is possible for all students and staff, all while taking reasonable steps to ensure the safety of everyone.

We do know that all of our community and staff have different levels of comfort with the virus, varying health concerns, varying access to off-site instructional materials (computers, internet), etc., and that the days of "one size fits all" instruction are gone. We also know the importance of a quality education for all of our students, so Hastings Area School System is committed to meeting the needs of ALL of our students, and we will be working on securing all necessary resources to provide families with what they need.

We appreciate your patience, flexibility, and understanding while we continue to navigate these new and unique challenges.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me via email or phone.

Thank you very much for your time and enjoy the rest of your summer. Stay safe and healthy, and hug your kid(s) for us! We miss them terribly.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Remenap". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "R".

Dan Remenap, Superintendent
Hastings Area School System
dan.remenap@hassk12.org