



Clarendon CISD

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July 14, 2020

Clarendon CISD Family,

As we continue to traverse the ever-changing COVID-19 landscape, we appreciate your patience as we continue to receive weekly and sometimes daily input from the Texas Education Agency and the State of Texas. While we are still developing protocols for our return in August, I want to assure you that the health of your student as well as the health of our faculty and staff is of the utmost importance. We want everyone to feel safe in returning so we can provide our students with high quality instruction and a great school experience. In order to do this, we will all have to work together if we want to ensure the success of our Ponies, Colts, and Broncos. Protocols for our anticipated return in August will be forthcoming in the upcoming weeks.

We are planning to welcome our students back as usual on August 13th. It is my sincere hope that every student in Clarendon CISD is present on that day so we can get back to a sense of normalcy and routine for them. With having to close this past spring, we felt like we did not finish the job. We want your kids back so we can give them the education they deserve. I encourage you to send them to us so we can continue to take care of them. There is no substitute for face to face in person instruction and we are looking forward to seeing you and your students on August 13th.

Plans will also be put into place for remote learning in case of potential closures or if parents prefer not to send their child back to school for traditional face-to-face instruction. The Texas Education Agency has given school districts the choice of choosing between two plans or both in lieu of face-to-face instruction. The two plans are Synchronous Instruction and Asynchronous Instruction. Please see TEA's definitions below.

Remote Synchronous Instruction – Two-way, real-time/live, virtual instruction between teachers and students when students are not on campus. In this method, the required amount of instructional time is scheduled each day, and funding is generated when attendance is recorded daily at a locally selected snapshot time. Synchronous instruction is provided through a computer or other electronic device or over the phone. The instructional method must address the required curriculum, per TEC, §28.002.

Remote Asynchronous Instruction – Instruction that does not require having the instructor and student engaged at the same time. In this method, students learn from instruction that is not necessarily being delivered in-person or in real time. This type of instruction may include various forms of digital and online learning, such as prerecorded video lessons or game-based learning tasks that students complete on their own, and pre-assigned work and formative assessments made available to students on paper. The instructional method must address the required curriculum, per TEC, §28.002.

A school district may choose which delivery method is best for their students. The only exception is that students Pre-K through 2nd Grade may only receive remote instruction via the asynchronous model. Pre-K through 2nd Grade students are not eligible to receive remote instruction through the synchronous model. Please keep in mind that students are required to attend at least 90% of their classes (with some exceptions) to receive credit and be promoted. Remote attendance will count in the same manner as on-campus attendance in satisfying this requirement. TEA has provided guidelines for recording attendance regardless of the method of instruction used. TEA will not issue any waivers to districts to exempt themselves from the 90% rule and truancy laws will apply to students who fail to attend school either on campus or remotely.

In the coming weeks, we will ask you to make a decision for either on campus or remote instruction. Your choice does not lock your child in for the entire school year, but your student will be required to remain in that instructional setting through the end of that current grading period. A student will not be allowed to choose different instructional settings for individual courses. For example, a student cannot choose on campus instruction for math and science but choose remote instruction for social studies and reading. Also, please note that students who begin receiving remote instruction as a result of staying at home to isolate from COVID-19 exposure will be permitted to return to campus at the end of their isolation period as opposed to the end of a grading period. Students involved in extracurricular activities will be required to attend on campus instruction rather than receive remote instruction.

As we move closer to August, I know there will be more questions. Please do not hesitate to email me at bellar.jarod@clarendonisd.net. As stated earlier, we want our students, faculty, and staff to feel safe in their return to school in August. I will send out more information as return protocols and instructional plans are finalized. Thank you again for your patience and understanding as we do our best to educate the students of Clarendon CISD.

Respectfully,



Jarod Bellar