



Return to School Update

JULY 31, 2020

Back to School Plan for 2020-2021

Chippewa Valley Schools is pleased to announce that families can choose between two educational options to best fit the needs of their family – the Chippewa Valley Virtual Academy and in-person learning.

The new virtual academy will offer a comprehensive, rigorous curriculum taught by highly qualified CVS teachers. For more information you can visit our website.

Chippewa Valley Virtual Academy Webpage: <https://tinyurl.com/CVVA2020>

Chippewa Valley Virtual Academy FAQ and Registration Link: <https://tinyurl.com/CVVAFAQ>

We will also offer in-person learning either through a traditional classroom experience or a hybrid model. A hybrid model requires students to rotate days of attendance thereby reducing the number of students in class on any given day. The model of in-person instruction (traditional or hybrid) will be determined by the district. The decision will be based on our analysis of safety protocols, operational factors, and the health and well-being of our students and staff. **If at any time we feel the return to school is not safe, we will implement a remote learning plan.**

The Governor's Return to School Roadmap requires that every school district develop a preparedness plan that is submitted to the state. Our plan will be approved by the board of education and posted on our website.

Town Hall Meeting **Wednesday, August 5** **6 pm**

Join us for a virtual meeting to learn more about our planning and the educational options being proposed for next school year. A link to the meeting will be sent to you and available on our district website, chippewavalleyschools.org. You can submit your questions in advance at: <https://tinyurl.com/CSVQandA> or



Registration for CVVA Extended

CVS has extended the deadline for registration for the new online academy. The registration deadline for the Chippewa Valley Virtual Academy (CVVA) has been extended to Sunday, August 9th. The district asks parents interested in the CVVA to submit their registration as soon as possible to help with the planning needed to accommodate class scheduling.

CVS Frequently Asked Questions

2020-2021 School Year

Chippewa Valley Schools is working on several plans to support the upcoming school year. Plans have not been finalized but we are taking proactive measures to be prepared for every scenario referenced in the Governor's Return to School Roadmap. Many factors will determine if in-person instruction will take place in September, including the Governor's announcements, county data, the Mi Safe Start Phases of our region and CDC guidelines.

If we are in Phase 4 as a state, we are preparing the details for both a traditional and hybrid learning model. Additionally, we will be prepared if the state returns to Phase 3 and schools must move to remote learning. Regardless of the learning model, we will provide students with every opportunity to learn and succeed. It is our commitment that each learning model will provide rigorous instruction that closely mirrors that which we have offered before the pandemic.

Our district will follow the health and safety recommendations from the State of Michigan and CDC for in-person instruction, whether that happens five days a week or for a portion of the week. We recognize that the uncertainty of every detail being outlined is difficult but ask for your patience as we navigate this unprecedented time. We are making every effort to consider what is best for our students, staff and community. Chippewa Valley Schools is committed to balancing what is best and what is safe to create a plan that meets the needs of most of our stakeholders.

The purpose of this document is to answer some of the commonly asked questions. Answers to these questions are subject to change and not intended to be a final decision, but rather a guide to support families as they navigate the many learning scenarios for the 2020-2021 school year.

Learning Scenarios and Operations for the School Year

What are the guidelines for the 2020-21 school year?

The MI Safe Schools: Michigan's 2020-21 Return to School Roadmap outlines required, strongly recommended and recommended action items for each phase of the reopening of schools.

What has CVS done to prepare for the upcoming school year?





A task force was formed to address the details for the upcoming school year. Parent and staff surveys were reviewed and used as a planning guide. Several subcommittees were formed that included support staff, teachers, healthcare representatives, union leadership, and administrators. With safety and health as our number one priority, these subcommittees focused on proper safety education and mitigation efforts to reshape the 2020-21 school year.

What does each phase of the MI Safe Start Plan mean for school in the fall?

- Phase 1-3 requires schools to close and offer remote learning.
- Phase 4 allows school districts to choose between a hybrid option, where students attend in-person instruction on a reduced or limited schedule, and a traditional five day a week schedule. This phase has many required health and safety actions that schools must implement.
- Phase 5-6 allows schools to return to in-person instruction five days a week with some health and safety required actions.



CHIPPEWA VALLEY SCHOOLS RETURN TO SCHOOL ROADMAP

PHASE 1-3	PHASE 4	PHASE 5	PHASE 6
 CVS will offer REMOTE LEARNING	 CVS will offer either HYBRID INSTRUCTION (A combination of Remote and In-Person Instruction) or IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION with required safety protocols	 CVS will offer IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION with minimal safety protocols	 CVS will offer IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION

**The Chippewa Valley Virtual Academy is available for families
not ready to return to in-person learning in each phase.**

NOTE: In the event of increased risk of the spread of COVID-19 in our community, schools may return to a 100% remote learning model during any phase.

What is CVS planning for the return to school in the fall?

The district will follow the Return to School Roadmap to determine learning options. We have planned for every scenario mentioned in the Roadmap.

Although the phase of our region is determined by the State of Michigan, families have the option to choose the Chippewa Valley Virtual Academy if they feel more comfortable with an entirely at home learning option.

Choice for Families: Chippewa Valley Virtual Academy (CVVA)

CVVA will be offered as an option for K-12 families. This option will require families to commit to a trimester, semester or yearlong at home learning experience. The commitment could be for a full year if there is not space for students to return at those mid-year points. Students are guaranteed a spot in their homeschool for the 2021-22 school year.

CVVA courses will be taught through Schoology by our highly qualified, certified Chippewa Valley teachers, using the Chippewa Valley curriculum. Not all courses/options will be available, but we will provide content/curriculum that focuses on the essential standards students need to continue in their educational growth.

If a family does not choose to register for the CVVA, the district will determine one of the two learning models for Phase 4.

Phase 4 Learning Models: Traditional Face to Face Learning OR Hybrid Learning

Chippewa Valley Schools will resume in-person instruction if our region remains in Phases 4-6. Phase 4 learning may be in-person five days a week or a hybrid learning model. A hybrid learning model would require students to attend school two to three days a week while the remaining days would consist of learning at home. If this scenario is adopted by Chippewa Valley Schools for Phase 4, half the number of students will attend on one day and the other half on a different day. While students are at home, they will continue their learning through the Schoology platform with practice, application and extension activities.

The model of in-person instruction (traditional or hybrid) will be determined by the district. The decision will be based on our analysis of safety protocols and the safest way to return our staff and students to in-person instruction. Phases 5 and 6 will resume in-person full time instruction every day of the week. Please keep in mind regardless of the Phase, if we determine school is not safe, we will implement a remote learning plan.

A shift from one learning model to another may occur if public health data indicates a need. Our district is prepared to shift to a remote learning experience that will be more rigorous than that which we were required to implement in the spring of 2020.

Can a family/student choose a different learning option at the trimester or semester mark?

This will be based on space in either the virtual or in-person model and may be different by building. Because our district has committed to utilizing our teachers and curriculum, our scheduling options may be limited for mid-year movement due to space in classes and schedules.

When will school start?

We expect the school year to begin on Tuesday, September 8, 2020. It is possible that we may need to modify this date and are committed to communicating with staff and families as soon as possible if there is a change.

Will teachers receive training for the upcoming school year?

CVS teachers will be provided professional learning opportunities prior to the beginning of the school year, which may include instructional strategies, safety protocols, and tools for supporting remote learning.

How often will students attend school if we are in Phase 4?

The district is currently planning two learning models for Phase 4:

- Traditional Face to Face (In-Person)- students attend school five days a week
- Hybrid Learning – Students will rotate between in-school and at-home learning each week

A final district decision made by the Board of Education will be based on the latest CDC recommendations, the information from the state, public health data and our district's ability to meet the health and safety needs of our students and staff.



If school starts in one learning model, might it change?

Learning models are subject to change for many reasons. Some examples include:

- Our district's ability to meet the health and safety needs of our students and staff
- The latest mandates from the State of Michigan and/or the Federal Government
- CDC guidelines
- Public health data

Under what conditions would our district return to online learning?

If Governor Whitmer moves the state back to Phase 3, or while still in Phase 4, we determine that a return to school, regardless of safety protocols, would not be safe, we will implement a remote learning plan.



Will students and staff be required to wear face coverings?

In Phase 4, facial coverings are required for:

- All staff
- PreK-12 students in hallways and common areas
- 6-12 grade students in classrooms
- All students and staff during school transportation
- PreK-5 students will not be required to wear masks while in classrooms.

In Phases 5-6, facial coverings are recommended but not required for all staff and PreK-12 students in hallways and common areas.

What is the definition of a facial covering?

A facial covering is cloth material that covers the nose and mouth. Facial coverings may be secured to the head or simply wrapped around the lower face. They can be made of a variety of materials, such as cotton or linen, and may be factory-made or made by hand.

Are face shields acceptable alternatives to mask?

No. The CDC does not recommend the use of face shields as a substitute for cloth face coverings. However, a face shield that covers the eyes, nose and mouth can be worn in addition to a cloth mask if desired. A face shield may be worn by younger children who are not required to wear a cloth face mask.

Who determines whether or not a student/staff member can medically tolerate a facial covering?

People who should not wear facial coverings include the following:

- Children younger than 2 years old
- Anyone who has trouble breathing
- Anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance

Documentation from a medical professional will be requested.

What steps will the school district take to promote good hygiene and healthy practices?

Our schools will provide soap, hand sanitizer, paper towels and tissue. We will teach handwashing and provide informational signs to reinforce this practice. Each building will develop a recommended schedule for frequent handwashing and sanitizing.

We will continue to work with our district nurse and county health department to make informed decisions that promote health and safety.

What social distancing practices will be implemented?

Using our existing space, students and staff will be spaced apart as much as possible. When possible, desks and tables will face the same direction.

We will make every attempt to balance the number of students in our classes and encourage social distancing.

What procedures will be in place for visitors to the buildings?

Visitors will be restricted in our school buildings. Office procedures will be in place to limit contact with visitors. If a visitor is deemed essential, they will be required to complete a health screening and asked to follow the same safety procedures as our staff members.

Our schools will have a drop off space for items that are delivered to school after the day has begun.

Classroom volunteers and visitors will not be permitted at this time.

What additional cleaning procedures will take place in the school buildings?

Our custodial staff is committed to frequent cleaning, especially of high-touch areas. Each classroom will be sanitized using an EPA approved cleaning product every night.

What procedures will the school implement on school buses?

- Bus drivers will be required to wear face coverings when transporting students.
- Following each bus run, the bus will be sanitized using an EPA approved cleaning product.
- Students will be required to use district provided hand sanitizer before entering the school bus.
- Students will be required to wear face coverings while on CV school buses.
- Siblings will be asked to sit together on the school bus when applicable.
- Students will be assigned to seats on the bus to social distance as much as possible.

Will childcare (SACC) be available for elementary students?

- If traditional face to face learning takes place in our school buildings, traditional childcare will be available for students in grades K-5. This will take place before and after school and must be scheduled through our childcare system Eleyo.
- If hybrid learning takes place in our school buildings, childcare will be available to K-5 students on the days they attend school.

What if my child has an IEP?

We understand there are many uncertainties as we make informed decisions for our students next year. Chippewa Valley Schools will conduct a review of each student's IEP in partnership with teachers and parents to reflect each individual's unique needs. Depending on the public health conditions and the risk phase of our school district when school begins, we will work together to create the best plan for your child.

What if my child has special needs, and the district moves to a remote learning environment during a COVID-19 resurgence?

If remote virtual instruction is required due to a resurgence of COVID-19, we will continue to meet the needs of students with IEPs. Staff members will connect with families to ensure parents have the necessary resources (i.e., computer, hotspot, etc.) for remote learning. Service providers will also connect with students through virtual sessions and recorded lessons.

How will students receive special education services if the district moves to remote learning?

Parents will be contacted by their case manager with specific information. The district will make a good faith effort to provide instruction in goal areas and support students in making progress on IEP goals and objectives. We will individualize by developing a contingency learning plan for each student. Remote technology will be used as much as possible.

What if my child has a 504 plan?

Parents will be contacted by their child's 504 case manager (often the social worker at the elementary level and the counselor at the secondary level) with case specific information. The 504 team (including the parent) may determine that changes should be made to the student's 504 as a result of virtual learning.



Can students with an IEP enroll in Chippewa Valley Virtual Academy (CVVA)?

The Individualized Education Program (IEP) process is a personalized process; no two IEPs or students are alike. Please remember that decisions regarding whether the CVVA option is appropriate or what, if any, accommodations and supports would be necessary for your child would be determined at an IEP meeting after parents apply for the virtual academy.

