



September 21, 2020

**RE: Hybrid Learning Plan**

Dear Alton School District Families:

This communication is to share an important update regarding upcoming changes to the instructional format for Alton School District students. At the start of the second quarter (Monday, October 19), Alton schools will transition to a Hybrid Learning Plan and provide students with in-person learning during a portion of each school week.

While we continue to monitor our local and regional metrics related to COVID, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also released updated guidance (September 15, 2020) for the reopening of schools. The updated guidance includes mitigation strategies to assist schools in reopening as safely and quickly as possible. This continues to include: consistent use of masks, social distancing to the largest extent possible, hand hygiene, cleaning and disinfection, and contact tracing in collaboration with the local health department (see the updated CDC School Reopening Guidance [here](#)). Adherence to these measures will be critical for our schools to reopen and remain open for in-person learning opportunities. Please know we will continue to work directly with the Madison County Health Department and under the Illinois Department of Public Health guidelines as we prepare for our transition to the Hybrid Learning Plan.

Under the Hybrid (or Blended) Learning Plan, students will attend in person two days per week using a Red and Grey Schedule. Students on the Red Schedule will attend school in-person on Mondays and Wednesdays each week with remote learning on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Students on the Grey Schedule will attend in-person on Tuesdays and Thursdays with remote learning on Mondays and Wednesdays. All students will then participate in remote instruction and learning on Fridays each week. Compacted and shortened school schedules will still be utilized when the hybrid plan begins on October 19. Updated information on the Alton School District's Hybrid Learning Plan is available by clicking [here](#).

Families may also choose a remote-only option for their child(ren) for the remainder of the first semester. Please note that remote learning, depending on grade level, will look much different in the second quarter as compared to now. Teachers will be providing instruction for in-person students each day, with the exception of Fridays. This will result in a changed format regarding how remote instruction is provided. More information on this change in remote learning formats for the second quarter will be provided soon.

**In order to plan for the return to in-person learning under our hybrid plan, all families will be required to log in to Skyward Family Access (link [here](#)) and select either in-**

**person/hybrid OR remote-only instruction for the second quarter. This selection should be made by Tuesday, September 29.** Families previously selecting remote instruction for their child earlier this summer will still need to designate in-person or remote-only instruction under the updated reopening plan for October 19. After all selections are complete, students attending in-person instruction will be assigned a Red or Grey Schedule for attendance. All efforts will be made to have siblings in the same family attend in-person learning under the same schedule.

The purpose of the Alton Hybrid Learning Plan is to provide in-person learning opportunities while reducing the number of students at school each day to allow for greater social distancing in classrooms and hallways. All previously shared health and safety measures will be required for students attending in-person instruction. Students will be required to wear masks each day while on the bus and at school. Parents/school guardians must self-certify each morning that, prior to school attendance, their child(ren) is free of COVID-like symptoms. Also, student temperatures will be taken each day upon arrival at school. Hand hygiene, increased sanitizing of contact surfaces and other safety and precautionary measures will also be utilized.

This initial communication is being provided so that families may begin to plan for the forthcoming changes on October 19. Please remember to take a moment and select in-person or remote-only instruction in Skyward Family Access so that we may continue our planning for your child(ren). Additional information will be provided on the return to schools under the hybrid plan in the coming days. However, if families have questions that will aid in informing decisions regarding in-person or remote-only instruction, please email those to [parentquestions@altonschools.org](mailto:parentquestions@altonschools.org).

Thank you for your continued patience and understanding. We know what a stressful and difficult time this is for families. However, we look so very forward to the return of our students under the Hybrid Learning Plan.

Thank you again and we hope both you and your family are well.

Sincerely,

Kristie L. Baumgartner  
Superintendent