

# Perry Central Community School Corporation

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Dear Perry Central Families:

It's been a busy summer preparing for the 2021-2022 school year, and we are getting excited to welcome students back on August 10th! We are writing to share our reopening plans with families. The entire reopening plan can be found on the Perry Central website and is attached. Here are some highlights of important changes and protocols:

- Masking inside the building will be optional.
- Masking on the school bus will be required as this is currently federally mandated.
- Buses will drop students off by the cafetorium like last year; however, drop off will not begin until 7:40 a.m.
- Students in the junior-senior high school will all be released at the 7th period bell (3:01 p.m.) even if they are car riders or drivers. Students in the elementary who are car riders will be released at 2:50 (K-2) and 2:55 (3-6). If you are new to Perry Central and will be dropping off/picking up your child, please reach out to the offices for more information.
- Students will eat breakfast and lunch in the cafeteria this year (grab and go breakfast in the high school will still be available). We will try to keep students as socially distanced as possible while they are in line, and we will use scannable lunch cards again. New cards will be provided to the students on the first day of school.
- To the extent practicable, K-6 students should be seated at least 3 feet apart and facing the same direction.
- Seating charts will be required in classrooms, in the cafeteria, and on school buses to assist in contact tracing.
- We will continue with frequent handwashing, and hand sanitizer will be available.
- Drinking fountains will be for bottle fill only.
- The Indiana State Department of Health encourages all eligible staff and students to get the vaccine. There is a walk-in clinic every Wednesday at the Perry County Health Department. Currently, people aged 12 and up are eligible.
- We will follow state guidelines for school exclusion and contact tracing; currently according to those guidelines, immunized individuals do not have to quarantine in the event of exposure to COVID-19.

Last year, we provided an online option for families. We paired students with their Perry Central teachers, and teachers were responsible for both in-person and online students. This year, we are not providing an online option unless there is a medical necessity. Even under the best circumstances, there is no comparison between the quality of education we can provide in-person compared to online. The data collected at Perry Central and across the state confirm that COVID-19 has negatively impacted student achievement, and we believe the best way to address that is to serve students in-person where we can provide the necessary support for learning. Should a family need a fully online option for the 2021-2022 school year due to COVID-19 for a medically vulnerable student, those students will need a doctor's note certifying the need for online school. Students who attend in-person but who are placed in quarantine will be able to connect to their regular teachers and lessons via Google Classroom, like we did last year. Virtual instruction will not be available for absence due to other illness or for vacations, etc. In addition, Perry Central High School will continue to offer an alternative school option, which can be partially or fully virtual, in special circumstances. If you have questions or want to discuss any of these options for the upcoming year, please reach out to me, Jennifer Mitchell or Jody French.

We are honored that you entrust us with your children and their education. We will continue to communicate with families, and we encourage you to reach out to us with concerns or questions. We are looking forward to the new school year with great hope for a positive, productive year for all of our Commodores!

I wish you well,

Tara Bishop, Superintendent