



PRAIRIE GROVE CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 46

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September 15, 2020

Dear District 46 Families,

Last week the Board of Education discussed the current Remote Learning platform and the possibility of the District's return to some form of in person (face-to-face) instruction. However, I was unable to attend the meeting, due to a family emergency. The Board has asked for another meeting to review the District's learning platform options, digest the COVID-19 metrics from the local health department, and to formulate a time frame for a possible return to some form of in person (face-to-face) instruction.

In late July, we presented two learning options for the start of the school year, Remote Learning and a Hybrid/Blended Learning model. We are at the point where we need to examine our current instructional model and determine if we should continue down the path of remote learning only or start a transition to the Hybrid/Blended learning model. To help us fully engage in the decision making process, we need some information from parents/students regarding the Hybrid/Blended model. Below is a snapshot of what to expect if we transition to the Hybrid/Blended learning model.

What is Hybrid/Blended (In-Person & Remote) by Grade Level?

(K-8): Students engage in remote instruction AND in person instruction based on their grade level and certain specific individual needs. In person instruction days are determined by grade level. Kindergarten through 4th grade would be on-campus on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and engaging remotely on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Students in grades 5th through 8th would be learning in person on Tuesdays and Thursdays and engaging remotely on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. The length of in person school day would be reduced to minimize some of the risks involved with eating lunch/snack on-campus. On designated in person & remote learning blended school days, the student day would be split based on the following times:

- **K-5th: In person 8:45a-12:30p; Remote Learning 1:30p-3:25p**
- **6th-8th: In person 8:10a-11:30a; Remote Learning 12:30p-2:50p**

Throughout the school buildings, students and staff would be required to wear personal protective equipment (face covering) and social distance, to the greatest extent possible. We acknowledge that maintaining social distance at all times is not realistic. However, we have implemented multiple layers of cleaning and sanitizing for everyone's protection.

Student class schedules, on the non in person days, will be the same as the in person day (*see the time schedule above*). Classes will blend both synchronous (live) and asynchronous (on demand) activities. Student attendance and participation is required during all activities and attendance may be monitored by a student's participation in "live sessions".

Some of the key elements of the Hybrid Blended learning platform include:

- Students are able to engage in some in person learning each week with their teacher(s) and peers.
- Students' remote experience will also be with their designated teacher.
- Social distancing is easier to obtain as we are able to utilize all of the classrooms throughout the district, (EL and JH).
- Risk of exposure is lessened as students do not need to remove masks for a period of time to eat lunch or snacks while in the presence of peers and staff.

(ECE-PreK): All students in ECE-PreK will engage in remote instruction and in person instruction based on the level of programming required as determined by their specific individual needs. Students in blended classes (all tuition paying students and some special education students) will attend school for in person instruction one day per week (Wednesday or Friday), one and a half hours per day. Each blended class will be split in half to allow for decreased numbers and appropriate social distancing, to the greatest extent possible. Asynchronous activities/materials will be provided for the days they are not in attendance for in person instruction.

Students in self-contained classes will attend school for in person instruction three days each week (Monday, Wednesday and Friday) for one and a half hours/day. Remote Learning instruction/activities will be provided to all ECE-PreK students on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The shorter hours of in person learning for ECE-PreK will allow for the required sanitizing and cleaning between class sessions. Increasing these hours gradually will be considered during the phase-in process, if appropriate. Additionally, no snack will be provided or eaten during the time students are in attendance to reduce the risk of exposure, so the shorter time frame will accommodate for this as well. On designated in person & remote learning blended school days, the student day would be split based on the following times:

- **Self-Contained Classes in person three (3) days per week (Monday, Wednesday and Friday); Morning session 9:00a-10:30a or Afternoon session 1:30p-3:00p**
- **Blended Classes in person one (1) day per week (either Wednesday or Friday); Morning session 9:00a-10:30a or Afternoon session 1:30p-3:00p**

What information does the District need?

One of the essential data points we will need in order to make an informed determination focuses on the number of students/parents that would prefer to remain in remote learning and the number of students/parents that prefer to move to the Hybrid Blended learning platform. During all of our planning for in person instruction, it was clear that we DO NOT HAVE the space capacity to house all students while maintaining the appropriate social distance. This is especially true in the smaller elementary classrooms. In order to determine which classrooms will be utilized, the number of sections needed and what other accommodations we will need, parents/students will need to commit to one of the learning platforms.

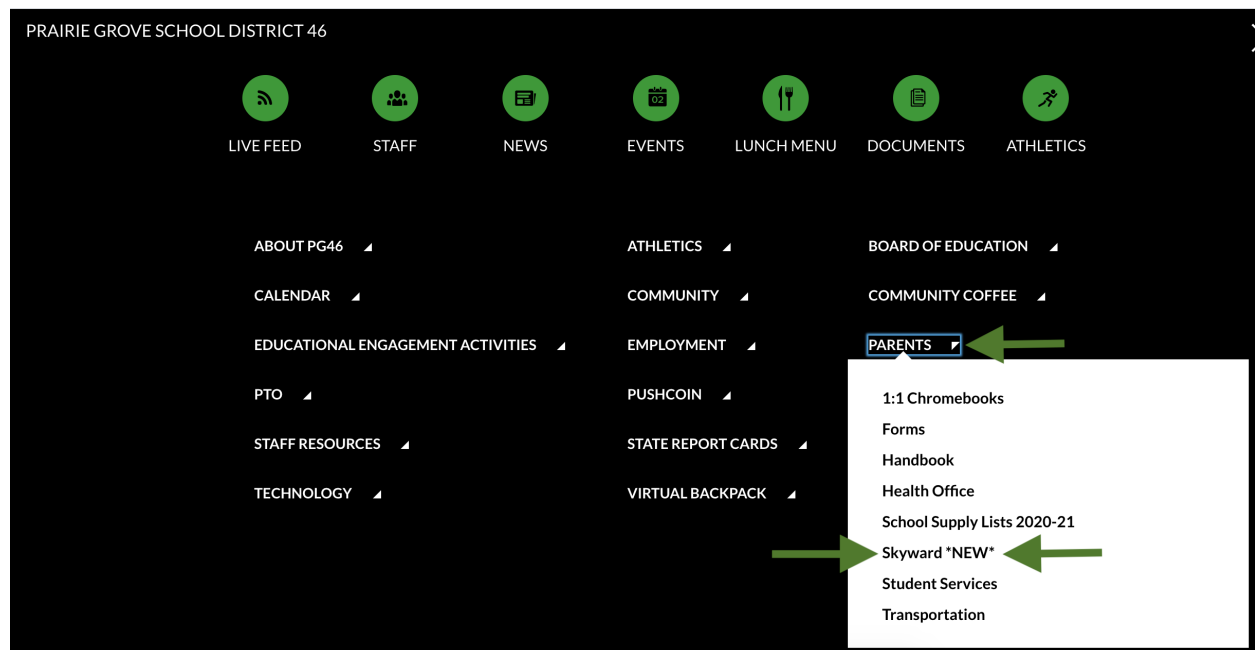
As you contemplate this choice, there are other pieces of information that you will need to make an informed decision.

1. **If the District moves to a Hybrid/Blended learning platform, the currently assigned teachers and schedules may be changed to accommodate the number of students that can physically be housed in a learning space. This is applicable to Elementary and Junior High rosters.**

2. Students that remain in remote learning will not have the option to join an in person class until a trimester break or other designated future date. Students can move from in person to remote.
3. Parents/students that do not make a selection in Skyward Family Access will default to remote learning.

How do I make my choice?

Parents/guardians will need to access their Skyward Family Access account in order to respond to the questions for each of their students. To access Skyward, go to www.dist46.org and click on the “Quick Links” bar in the upper right hand corner of the home page. Select “Parents” and then “Skyward *NEW*”. Use the same login information that was used for registration. The window for making your choice is from today through Friday, September 18, 2020 at 12 noon.



Parent/student choices will be a part of the Board discussion at the special board meeting on September 22nd.

Lunch Update

Weekly food packs ([lunch menu](#)) will be available for pick-up from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at our food service entrance that is located off the bus circle (there will be signage). The remote learning lunch pick-up schedule is as follows:

- Week 6 food pack (5 meals) - Monday, September 21st pick-up
- Week 7 food pack (5 meals) - Monday, September 28th pick-up

District 46 students can receive lunch for up to five days per pick-up. **Each week**, you will need to reserve your food pack order via the Webstore ([PG46 Webstore](#)). In the event that you are unable to process your weekly food pack order via the Webstore, additional food packs will be available.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Dr. John M. Bute". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Dr. John M. Bute
Superintendent