



Dr. Harold Olin
Superintendent

Dr. Lori Katz
Secondary Director

Mrs. Megan Thompson
Elementary Director

Mr. Scott Kern
Human Resources Director

Mr. James Bever
Student Services Director

Mr. Nate Day
Business Manager

GREENFIELD-CENTRAL COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION

Good afternoon,

Greenfield-Central Junior High School is making adjustments to the student schedule due to an increase in COVID-related absences among our students and staff. For at least a three-week period of time, **beginning Monday, November 30th and ending Friday, December 18th, the junior high school will operate on a hybrid schedule that resembles the current high school schedule.** Decisions regarding the structure for return to school in January will be made at a later time. It is our intent to give families advance notice of this change so they can make the appropriate accommodations to set the stage for continued student success.

The primary reason for this change is student safety. We are balancing the educational needs of students with the need to create a safe school environment. By reducing the number of students onsite on any given day, we are more able to maintain appropriate levels of distancing throughout the building. This move will minimize the potential for spread of the virus, and it will drastically reduce the number of students excluded in the event that we have further positive cases in the school. We recognize that this shift is not ideal for some of our families. However, our primary commitment continues to be maintaining the safest environment possible for students during this current surge we are experiencing.

How can you support your child's learning?

Help your Child Understand the New Calendar. Attached to the bottom of this letter, you will find a calendar noting when your child will attend classes onsite and when they will attend virtually. As noted above, this calendar mimics the high school calendar. Please print or save this calendar for easy reference.

- Students with last names that begin with the letter
 - **A - K will attend onsite on Mondays and Thursdays.**
 - **L - Z will attend onsite on Tuesdays and Fridays.**
 - Blended households can request that their children attend on the same day if desired. Contact your child's counselor via email to make this request.
 - Mrs. Fortuna (last names A-K) -- efortuna@gcsc.k12.in.us
 - Mrs. Smith (last names L-Z) -- rebsmith@gcsc.k12.in.us
- **All GCJHS students will attend *virtually* on Wednesdays.**

This hybrid environment will drastically differ from the virtual environment that students experienced in March - May of 2020.

- **Attendance** will be taken and tracked in our Student Information System (Powerschool) for each class period. Students will be expected to log into each teacher's Google Hangout Meet opportunity (communicated by classroom teacher) at the same time they would attend class onsite. Each day will consist of new learning objectives for all students. There will not be a day of "learning" at school and a day of "application" at home. Each day will be a continuation of the previous day, just as it has been with all students onsite.

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- **Grading** expectations for all students remain the same whether they are attending class virtually or onsite. Students are expected to participate in instruction, engage in discussions, and complete all daily assignments/tasks.
- Students with **exceptional needs** may need to attend onsite instruction more frequently. These determinations will be made on a case-by-case basis by the case conference committee.

Adhere to the Daily Schedule. Students should plan to maintain their same morning routine across their onsite days and their virtual days. Students will follow the same bell schedule on onsite days and virtual days. The consistency of a routine will allow students to be more productive in their learning.

- Students who ride the **bus** to and from school will still be able to ride the bus on days they report to school.
- When learning virtually, students should plan to check in with their advisory teacher each day. Students can work independently on homework during study hall when learning virtually.
- After-school **tutoring** schedule adjustments will be communicated in the upcoming days.
- Athletics **coaches** and club **sponsors** will communicate with teams and clubs regarding those schedules and expectations.
- **Meals** will be made available to students for the days they are learning from home.
 - Complete the order form (<https://forms.gle/gr5Zo1bxdqofpH1C6>) by Sunday night EACH WEEK you need to pick up meals for at-home consumption.
 - Students should pick up their meals for the week in the cafeteria at the end of their first day onsite for that week (A-K on Monday and L-Z on Tuesday).

Set up a Successful Virtual Environment. Students should identify an area of their home that is free of distractions and has a reliable internet connection. Please let your school counselor know if you need assistance with your Internet connection.

Encourage Social Distancing. The primary reason for this change is student safety. In making this change, we hope to minimize the spread of COVID-19 within our student population. Please help us by encouraging your child to stay home and not interact with other students as they adhere to their daily schedule on virtual days.

We recognize that this shift is not ideal for many families. However, we are committed to remaining nimble in this ever-changing environment. We appreciate your understanding as we make decisions that keep the health and safety of students as our highest priority. We will continue to monitor environmental and health conditions to make determinations for the rest of the school year.

Dr. Harold Olin