



Hiawatha Community Unit School District #426

410 South First Street Kirkland, Illinois 60146

<http://www.hiawatha426.org>

District Office

815-522-6676 Fax: 815-522-6619

Hiawatha Jr/Sr High School

815-522-3335 Fax: 815-522-9918

Hiawatha Elementary School

815-522-3336 Fax: 815-522-3185

Dear Hiawatha Families and Staff,

I hope this letter finds your family well. We have been faced with the daunting task of prioritizing the academic rigor, staff/student social and emotional needs, facility logistics, health and safety of our staff and students and the understanding of families' personal schedules and beliefs. Although many of us may have differing opinions on the COVID-19 Pandemic, as advocates for our children and staff we must keep the above items a priority. We have been working hard to create solutions that best meet all needs. As you can imagine, the task is a large one.

After many hours of planning and reviewing guidance from the Illinois Department of Public Health, DeKalb County Health Department, and the State Board of Education, plans have begun to take some shape. We have met with teachers from all three levels and plan to meet with them again tomorrow afternoon. We have also met with all department heads (Transportation, Maintenance, Food Service, and Technology). As the resurgence of COVID-19 can be seen in the news media please know our plans continue to remain very fluid. We would like to take an opportunity to hold at least three Town Hall Meetings in the High School Gym from 5:30p.m.-7:00p.m. on Friday, July 17th, Tuesday, July 21st, and Thursday, July 23rd. We ask that all participants wear masks and exercise social distancing while in the gym and on school grounds. Chairs will be spread out in the High School Gym. We ask that you please RSVP to either office (Jr/Sr High 815-522-3335 or Elementary 815-522-3336) with the date you plan to attend. This will allow us to maintain the 50 person gathering requirement. There will be a panel of administrators that will give a brief overview of academic, food service, and transportation scenarios. This will then lead into a question and answer session. Keep in mind, our scenarios are fluid and dependent upon further state laws, regulations, and guidance. It is a goal to have a completed plan approved on or before July 31st.

As many of you know, we worked hard the last two years to develop a Strategic Plan. The rollout and publication of that plan has been delayed due to COVID-19 and our need to focus on the other more immediate needs. Please know the plan is still in effect and we are working on many areas of it. We plan to rollout and publicize the plan after we transition back into school and see what the future of instruction looks like. As we are striving to get through this together, I thank you for your patience and understanding. I prefer to view COVID-19 as a bump in the road rather than a roadblock. Together we will get over this bump and serve our students, staff and community to the best of our ability.

Sincerely,

Mr. Poynter

Superintendent

Hiawatha CUSD #426

The mission of the Hiawatha CUSD #426 is to empower all students to become productive, responsible, caring citizens and independent lifelong learners through a quality education within a safe and respectful environment.