

August 6, 2020

Good evening Crown Point parents,

On July 6, 2020, the Crown Point School Board passed resolution #780, which implemented the “Back to School Plan” allowing for the process to begin to reopen the Crown Point schools. The approved resolution provided the Crown Point Superintendent of Schools the right to amend the plan from time to time as necessary to accomplish this purpose. The approved Back to School resolution provided an outline of measures to be taken by students and faculty to reopen schools based, in large part, upon the requirements of Governor Eric Holcomb’s executive order in effect at that time and the Lake County Health Department’s recommendations made for reopening business and schools. Such plan permitted students who were properly social distanced six (6) feet or more from their classmates to remove masks when facing forward. Additionally, the corporation’s approved plan presented an option for parents to choose full time remote learning and/or to allow their child to return to school subject to the corporation being able to provide an effective plan to have the students return to school in a manner that is safe for teachers and students. Parents were advised to complete a parental survey so the corporation may determine the demand for those students who wish to return to in-school in order to properly plan for the school year.

On July 10, 2020, an email was sent to all parents from the Crown Point School administration indicating that it was the school corporation’s intention to move forward with the re-opening of schools on a daily basis with the student receiving learning daily along their peers to achieve optimal learning so long as the schools may re-open in “GREEN” status. In the same email, the school corporation advised that moving to “YELLOW” status (due to a significant spike in COVID cases) with alternating days of instruction in school and at home could be a viable option. It is, and remains, Crown Point Community School Corporation’s goal to have all students return to the classroom to achieve optimal learning as quickly as possible.

The parent survey presented to parents by the school corporation in Crown Point is now complete, with nearly a 99% response rate from parents. Approximately 80% of parents surveyed responded expressing their intention with having their students return to the school on a daily basis, and 20% of parents choosing remote learning for their child. This survey has allowed the school corporation to focus on the demographics of classroom size and spacing to determine if a return to full time school was feasible.

On July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Governor Eric J. Holcomb released an executive order which set forth significant requirements that schools must achieve to reopen. Amongst those requirements, the executive order states, in part, the following:

- 1) where classroom or place of instruction can be configured so that **all** students and instructors can maintain six feet of social distancing from one another at all times, face coverings or face shields do not need to be worn during in-person educational instruction; or
- 2) where a classroom or place of instruction cannot be configured so that all students and instructors can maintain six feet of social distancing from one another at all times, face coverings or face shields **must be worn** during in-person educational instruction...”.

On July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Governor Holcomb released executive order 20-39 which supplemented his July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 executive order 20-37, modifying the requirement of wearing face masks or face shields from six (6) feet to three (3) feet for students when facing forward.

Additionally, on July 31, 2020, the Lake County Health Department released new recommendations for the reopening of schools, which in part, are based upon the current positivity rate within Lake County, Indiana. The recommendations advise that for schools that cannot achieve proper social distancing, it is recommended that those schools begin with a hybrid model. The correlation between positive rates within Lake County, Indiana and social distancing would place the Crown Point School Corporation at a “YELLOW” status in accordance to its own Back to School Plan.

Based upon the percentage of parents within the Crown Point Community School District who have elected to have their children return to in-class instruction, it is not feasible for the school district to be able to comply with Governor Holcomb’s requirements in his July 24th, 2020 executive order, or executive order 20-39 dated July 30th, as it relates to social distancing in schools (at least 3 feet or more in distance). If students were permitted to return to Crown Point schools under the current status, based upon the requirements and recommendations of the Lake County Health Department and Governor Holcomb’s executive order, all students would be required to wear face masks the entirety of the school day. A hybrid model would allow for flexibility as it relates to the periodic wearing of masks that was originally intended.

Further, if schools were to reopen without proper distancing, the risk of a COVID positive case would cause great interruption to the school year and the administration of the schools within the district due to “tracing” requirements as it relates to mandatory quarantine procedures. With proper social distancing, the measure of mandatory quarantine is less likely to cause significant disruption and possible immediate school closure (or a move to “RED” status).

For the above reasons, the administration of the Crown Point School Corporation, with affirmation of the Crown Point School Board, is informing you that the schools will begin this school year in “YELLOW” status for a period of nine (9) weeks, under a hybrid model. Students will attend in person learning two (2) days a week, and remote learning the remaining days of the week. The specific details of the continuous “Back to School Plan” have been amended and attached to this email for your reference. Note, that due to the shift in color status and to allow sufficient time for administrative and instructional adjustments, Crown Point intends to move the first date of school for teachers to report to Monday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Students first day of school will begin Monday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Remote learning students who have enrolled for remote learning will continue to be solely placed in the remote learning program. However, parents who initially elected to have remote learning may now opt-in to in-school learning under the hybrid model. Parents who wish to opt-in to in-school learning under the hybrid model shall contact the principal or administration at your child’s respective schools **by 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020.**

After nine (9) weeks of schooling, the school’s reopening status will be reviewed to determine whether the staff and students will be able to safely return to full time schooling based upon the requirements in place and statistical data collected at such time.

Stakeholders, we appreciate and thank you for your continual support and patience as we continue to strive to meet the needs of our students and staff members.

Sincerely,  
The Board of School Trustees