



November 4, 2020

Prairie Families,

A key consideration in our decisions related to learning model selection for onsite instruction (hybrid / full) is our ability to provide for all mitigation strategies. This year, across our region and state, schools have struggled to find substitute teachers and paraprofessionals. While this is not a new problem for our district and others in our region; due to extra precautions for COVID and testing this year is especially difficult. Like students, we are asking staff to stay home with symptoms out of an abundance of caution until testing can be conducted. This has stressed our system's ability to provide consistent coverage in classrooms even with an "all hands on deck" approach to covering classrooms with available staff and administrators and continued work to find solutions to this challenge. Due to mitigation strategies, some options available in previous years for student supervision and class coverage for absence are no longer feasible with enhanced COVID-19 mitigation strategies.

Part of our Tier III considerations is "impact on regular building operations." Like all factors, we examine these impacts over the course of days. At one of our buildings we have reached a critical point in our ability to adjust to staffing/logistical challenges while adhering to mitigation strategies. Therefore, it has become necessary to make a temporary learning model change that will impact students at PRAIRIE CREEK.

Beginning Monday, November 9th, Prairie Creek will transition to an every-other day hybrid model. This change will be maintained until the Monday after Thanksgiving (Monday November 30), when Prairie Creek will return to a full onsite model. This change is in response to current conditions and is intended to be a short-term response only. At the time of this communication, we are not experiencing exploding rates of student infection and students are doing a great job with mitigation strategies. The only way we continue our success is to ensure we are able to adhere to mitigation strategies. This success with mitigation at all our schools is a credit to our staff who are working hard with students to mitigate spread, which includes monitoring their own symptoms. The hybrid will allow flexibility to address staff shortages due to very low substitute availability and low substitute fill rates for several weeks.

Key Points for Temporary Prairie Creek Hybrid Learning Model:

- 1) **This will only affect Prairie Creek**
- 2) While we are seeing staffing/logistical challenges at other buildings that are difficult, Prairie Creek is at a critical juncture due to sub fill rates, a larger student body, and larger class sizes
- 3) The key factor in this decision is safety for students
- 4) To ensure more frequent communication between students and teachers, Hybrid will be every-other day A / B (see chart with this communication for a schedule of attendance days)
- 5) There is no intention to extend this arrangement beyond November 30
- 6) Students will be in their previous hybrid groups

At this time all other previously announced models for other grades/buildings remain in place for the upcoming week November 9-13. While we are seeing the local positivity rising, we are not seeing an impact at other schools or throughout the district that would cause a model change at this time. We will continue to monitor school factors like attendance, as well as our ability to remain operational, as we continue to respond to the needs of our students, families, and staff in the midst of this recent uptick of positivity in the greater community. At the moment with current community rates, our key critical metric for us is student attendance rates, which we continue to monitor daily and remains steady and consistent with past school years.

We hope the community can continue to support us in the goal of full onsite instruction for all by encouraging our mitigation strategies at school and following these practices outside of school hours with their families and each other. We hope that this partnership will limit the unfortunate need for model changes due to COVID-19.

In Service,

Doug Wheeler, Ph.D.
Superintendent

CREEK - HYBRID LEARNING SCHEDULE

November 9 through November 24, 2020

PLEASE NOTE: This schedule starts with a “B” day so it aligns with 9th-12th grades when they begin an every-other day A/B in the future

Week 11	Monday November 9	Tuesday November 10	Wednesday November 11	Thursday November 12	Friday November 13
	CREEK Hybrid Cohort B	CREEK Hybrid Cohort A	CREEK Hybrid Cohort B	CREEK Hybrid Cohort A	CREEK Hybrid Cohort B
Week 12	Monday November 16	Tuesday November 17	Wednesday November 18	Thursday November 19	Friday November 20
	CREEK Hybrid Cohort A	CREEK Hybrid Cohort B	CREEK Hybrid Cohort A	CREEK Hybrid Cohort B	CREEK Hybrid Cohort A
Week 13	Monday November 23	Tuesday November 24	Wednesday November 25	Thursday November 26	Friday November 27
	CREEK Hybrid Cohort B	CREEK Hybrid Cohort A	NO SCHOOL THANKSGIVING		

Hybrid Learning Reminders:

- Students will be provided with online / at-home work for days they are not in school.
- Students are expected to participate in learning activities on days when they are not assigned to be at school.
- Google Classroom continues to be the homebase platform for Creek students. All assignments will be shared via Google Classroom.
- No synchronous (“live”) instruction is provided on at-home days and teachers’ ability to respond to questions during the day is limited because they are with the opposite cohort at school.