

October 16, 2020

Dear District 73 Parents and Guardians,

I cannot thank you enough for your patience and understanding throughout our Return to Learning planning process. I know that none of our Return to Learning options will fully satisfy everyone. That is the unfortunate nature of leading during the COVID-19 pandemic. I promise you that Hawthorn District 73 is committed to providing a safe and nurturing school community no matter how instruction is provided to your students.

At the Board of Education meeting on October 15th, it was determined that:

- The district will begin to implement an optional hybrid model for students enrolled in our early childhood and pre-kindergarten classes, as well as for K-2 (kindergarten, first, and second grade) students enrolled in our self-contained special education program.
- **October 26:** Early Childhood Hybrid Learning Model Begins
- **November 9:** Pre-K and K-2 (self-contained SPED program) Hybrid Learning Model Begins
- During the next Board of Education meeting, scheduled for November 12 at 7:00 p.m., we will present the optional hybrid model for students enrolled in grades K-2 (general education) and grades 3-8 self-contained special education programs.

You may visit our website at [www.hawthorn73.org](http://www.hawthorn73.org) to view the October 15 Board of Education meeting.

Lake County is experiencing a rise in the cases of COVID-19. The [Lake County School Decision Dashboard](#) provides daily updates on the incidence rate of COVID-19 and if the transmission rate is deemed to be substantial. If the number of COVID-19 cases continues to increase for 7 days, Lake County may impose mitigation strategies to curb the spread. This means we may be forced to eliminate in-person learning until the spread is contained.

Please remember it is very important for all of us to maintain vigilance during this time and follow the 3W's:

- Wear a mask
- Watch your distance
- Wash your hands

By working together, we can follow guidelines to prevent the further spread of COVID-19.

Thank you for your ongoing patience and willingness to collaborate with us. We are in this together, and, collectively, we can do amazing things to support our students and the Hawthorn community.

Sincerely,

Pete Hannigan, Ed.D.  
Superintendent