



# Canton

Union School District #66

Rolf Sivertsen- Superintendent  
Tad DeRenzy- Assistant Superintendent  
20 W. Walnut St., Canton, IL 61520  
309-647-9411 [www.cantonusd.org](http://www.cantonusd.org)

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December 30, 2020

Parents, Friends, and Guardians:

I hope you have all had a safe and restful Christmas. As you all know the Canton School District has been in a remote teaching format since August. As the school year has progressed, we have observed some students and their families struggle with the remote teaching format and become disengaged with their studies. In response, our teachers and staff have provided intensive interventions in an attempt to reengage those students. Those interventions have included tutoring, home visits, teacher check ins, and parent meetings. Regardless of our interventions, the demographic of the student population that has become disengaged continues to grow. As a result, our district will resume in person student instruction effective January 19, 2020. On January 19<sup>th</sup> all elementary students will be recalled to their respective buildings on a half-day schedule. One week later, on January 25<sup>th</sup> all middle school and high school students will be recalled to their schools on a full-time schedule. Accordingly, elementary students will also transition to full-time schedule on the 25<sup>th</sup> as well. Equally important, those families that choose to remain in a remote format will be able to do so. Within the next two weeks your child's school will be sending specific information regarding building schedules, transportation, and other pertinent information relating to the resumption of school. Please watch for information that may pertain to your child resuming school. Furthermore, district school officials feel that we are better equipped now to safely accommodate our students return to school rather than we were at the beginning of the year. For example, there is no longer a shortage of PPE (Personal Protective Equipment - hand sanitizer, masks, and gloves). In fact, we have a healthy stockpile of PPE in reserve. Equally important, we also feel with a projected 25% of our students studying remotely our district will be able to accomplish social distancing more effectively. Finally, we have also learned more about administering a school during a pandemic.

In closing, I would like to ask for your support during our transition to the resumption of school. Not all of you are going to agree with this decision. In fact, some of you may turn to social media to criticize the decision to resume school. However, at the end of the day, I see no benefit in creating a discourse on social media that will divide the community and further compromise the education of the students.

Thank you for reading this important correspondence.

Rolf Sivertsen

Superintendent Canton Schools