

From: Maumee City Schools <SchoolMessenger@maumee12.org>
Subject: Update From Dr. Cramer: Returning to School in August

June 12, 2020

TO: Maumee City Schools Parents

FROM: Todd Cramer, Superintendent

RE: Task Forces at Work to Plan for Return to In-person Classes in August

I can't believe that it has been three weeks since my parent update about the COVID-19 school closure. While it was definitely not a typical end-of-year for our students and families, I hope you had a chance to enjoy our community parades, virtual awards presentations, and the live-streamed graduation for the Class of 2020.

Today, I want to update you about the work of Maumee's four task forces that began meeting just before the end of the school year. There are more than 50 people including administrators, teachers, auxiliary staff members, parents, and students who are hard at work to identify the safest, most responsible way for Maumee City Schools to reopen our buildings to students and staff this August. Our goal is to return students, in all grades, to in-person classes Monday through Friday. Our start dates are August 24 (grades 4-9), August 25 (grades 10-12), and August 27 (grades K-3).

The results of our most recent parent survey showed that 79% of you said you will send your child to school this August, while 14% are still unsure and need additional details about what reopening will look like. In alignment with our goal of re-opening our schools to in-person instruction at the end of August, we have organized our efforts into four areas and have four distinct task forces at work. Each task force has identified barriers and challenges the school district will face as we reopen and they are all working on solutions to each barrier and challenge. The four task forces are:

- Teaching & Learning (focus on instructional needs)
- Activities & Athletics (focus on student activities and athletics)
- Logistics & Operations (focus on operational duties and day to day logistics)
- Financials (focus on fiscal responsibility/impact)

In addition to task force members having subcommittee meetings, phone calls, emails, doing product research, and seeking best-practice models from other states and countries, the chairpersons for each task force come together to debrief and identify how we can safely and successfully move forward.

At our debrief meeting on June 10, we were joined by five experts from the Lucas County Health Department via Zoom. They spent more than an hour with us to answer a myriad of questions and offer suggestions and guidance. We look forward to a close working relationship with these professionals as they continue to partner with us. While we are hopeful restrictions will continue to be eased, we know that we need a solid plan in place should they remain in place as currently stated and if there is a resurgence of COVID-19 at some point during the 2020-21 school year and remote learning would again be necessary.

The health department green-lighted us to reopen our playgrounds during the summer but with caution to families that no cleaning or disinfecting of play equipment will be done. Signs do remain on school grounds that discourage groups from gathering.

You may have seen Maumee High School and Gateway Middle School student-athletes back working out at the high school and out in the community because the Ohio High School Athletic

Association and the Governor are allowing summer conditioning. There are very strict safety protocols in place and all workouts are under the supervision of Maumee City Schools coaches.

Our central office, middle, and high school offices are open by appointment but we continue to encourage parents and community members to reach out by phone and email whenever possible. Thank you again for your ongoing support of our efforts and please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions. Take care.