



FARWELL AREA SCHOOLS

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7/23/2020

Dear Farwell Area Schools Families,

Please read this update regarding our ongoing planning for the 2020-2021 school year. This work has been done in partnership with our local health department and the Clare-Gladwin RESD, and is based on Executive Order No. 2020-142 and the Return to School Roadmap.

[Executive Order No. 2020-142](#)

- “This executive order provides a structure to support all schools in Michigan as they plan for a return of preK-12 education in the fall.”
- “There’s no one-size-fits-all solution...Districts will retain flexibility to tailor their instruction to their particular needs and to the disease conditions present in their regions.”
- “Every school district and nonpublic school must develop and adopt a COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan...”
- EO 2020-142 contains requirements regarding face coverings/masks when a school is operating in phase 4 (pg. 4). Additional information on this topic can also be found on page 22 of the Return to School Roadmap.

[Return to School Roadmap](#)

The 63-page roadmap includes requirements that all schools must implement as well as strongly recommended and recommend actions under each phase of the MI Safe Start Plan. If our region is in Phase 1-3, schools will be closed. Phases 4-6 will allow for in-person instruction with varying safety protocols. The Farwell Area Schools are working with local health officials, Clare-Gladwin RESD, and schools in our region to develop a plan that provides for the safety of our students and staff as our highest priority.

The Farwell Area Schools are planning to open for face to face instruction beginning on Monday, August 31, 2020, as we are currently in Phase 4 in our region. We are also planning to offer our families options that best meet the needs of their students.

Farwell Area Schools 2020-2021 Education Options:

Option 1 Face to Face/Remote Learning: If in Phase 4 or 5, we will return to face to face instruction, following the Roadmap guidelines with a plan to support remote instruction through the use of a Google Classroom if we are forced to shut down in-person instruction. FAS will strive to make a Chromebook available to families to support this instruction. Remote learning

will include multiple lessons per day, attendance, assignments (that will be required to be turned in), grading, assessments, and interventions if needed. Lessons will be available live or via recordings.

Option 2 FAS Remote Learning: If the family desires (and the State of Michigan approves), their student can participate via remote learning even if in person instruction is allowed by the State of Michigan. Students will be assigned a FAS teacher and class/classes. Students will be allowed to move between option 1 & 2 as needed and in coordination with the parents and teacher.

Option 3 Full Online Long-Term Learning (FAS Virtual Eagle Academy): The Farwell Area Schools are planning to offer a full virtual Online Learning Option for families that may not wish to return to face to face instruction or do not want to learn via the remote learning. This option requires a commitment of at least a Trimester, and or a full year. Parental support will be needed for younger learners under this option. Enrolling in Full Online Long Term Learning means that even though the learner doesn't come to the physical building and receive online support from a FAS educator, they are still enrolled in FAS and have access to all FAS resources, including technology and device support. It means that they would not transition back to school if the Governor's Phases change, within the trimester or the year depending of the parent's choice, but would continue to work within the contracted online learning platform. We ask that currently enrolled families make the decision to commit to FAS Virtual Eagle Academy no later than August 14, 2020. If you are interested in the Full Online Long Term Learning, you must complete the [FAS Virtual Eagle Academy Registration Form](#) or on the district website at www.farwellschools.net

If we are in Phase 1-3, all instructions must be remote. FAS teachers will use Google Classroom, but it is always our hope that we would be able to return to school should our region move into Phase 4-6.

If you are a new family to the Farwell Area Schools, you would also need to complete the District's Enrollment Packet, also found on our website.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding as we strive to create the best possible learning environment for your family under these ever changing conditions.

Respectfully,



*Steve Scoville
FAS Superintendent*