



## **Cory-Rawson Local Schools**

June 25, 2020

Heath Huffman, Superintendent



These newsletters are regularly sent directly from the superintendent's office to an email distribution list that was created based on the email addresses available via the listserv. The goals of two "separate" email distribution lists are to:

**\*\*Create electronic newsletters directly from the superintendent's office related to relevant educational topics that impact our district. On the other hand, the listserv communication emails serve as a platform for announcements (school delays, event information, etc.).**

\*\*Allow individuals to add or remove themselves from the superintendent's distribution list at their convenience.

If you do NOT automatically receive update from the office of the superintendent you may sign up by clicking the button directly below this text box. If you happen to be one of the 792 individuals who are already on the email list for updates from the superintendent and would prefer to be removed, that goal can be accomplished by clicking the "unsubscribe from this list" link at the very bottom of this communication.

**Click This Button to Add Your Email Address to the Superintendent's Update List**

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## **Healthy Restart 2020-2021**

To say the last few months have been a trying time for families, our community, state, nation, and world would be an understatement. Some have faced physical illness, loss of loved ones, financial hardship, and other difficult circumstances. As the Cory-Rawson School District prepares for the 2020-2021 school year, our goal is simply to educate students in a healthy, safe environment. That goal, frankly, is no different than any other year. It is not made with any political motive or intent to invoke fear. I have always told students, "My #1 job is to keep you safe." Research has proven again and again that kids thrive when raised in homes and schools where health and safety are a priority. As a leader in this district, that's my overarching goal--to do what's best for kids.

As we look towards the 2020-2021 academic year much remains unclear. I wish this was NOT the case, but at this point it would be dishonest to say otherwise. Below, however, you will find answers/clarifications to common concerns as we look forward.

**Some school districts have released their (tentative) plans for next school**

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### **year. Why haven't we done so?**

Simply put--we do not have a plan at this point. It's almost too early to step out and declare what is going to happen in the fall. Ohio school districts have NOT received guidelines/recommendations from the Ohio Department of Education, Governor DeWine's office, or Hancock Public Health at this time. While our district will ultimately have local control of "what school looks like in the fall," guidelines from these governmental agencies along with results from our recent local survey (results summarized below) will serve as an appropriate starting point for plan development. Please don't read the declaration of "we don't have a plan at this point" as a lack of concern/preparation/learning about what needs to occur for our district to experience a healthy, safe school year. That is not the case. District leaders continually read, research, and attend virtual meetings and webinars to stay up to date. One might also contend those who step forward with a plan too early don't always offer the best solutions and end up making many, many revisions.

### **If our district does NOT have a plan at this point, when will we have a plan?**

Governor DeWine and the Ohio Department of Education have stated that guidance/recommendations will be released in the near future. Discussions with Hancock Public Health have led to belief they will offer local guidance shortly thereafter. With those documents in hand we hope to use the month of July to create a comprehensive plan at the local level by no later than August 1, 2020.

### **Who is developing this plan?**

The Cory-Rawson Local School District's Healthy Restart Plan will be developed at the local level. A committee of school district leaders (including board of education members), staff, students, parents, and district residents will collaboratively work to develop a plan for submission to the board of education and/or local health department for final approval.

### **If I am interested in potentially serving on the Healthy Restart Committee what do I need to do?**

If you are interested in possibly serving on this committee, please complete the form below. Completed forms will be reviewed by leadership of the Cory-

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Rawson Board of Education with the goal of selecting committee members who represent various facets of our district and/or who bring relevant knowledge and/or skills to the committee. Applications should be submitted by no later than 3 PM on July 3, 2020.

**If I am not interested in serving on the Healthy Restart Committee what can I do?**

For numerous reasons serving on the committee may not be feasible for you; however, this does NOT mean one needs to be disconnected from the process. Please walk alongside the district through this journey in the following ways:

1. Continue to read our Community Updates to stay informed regarding the 2020-2021 school year and our plan.
2. If you have questions/concerns/comments about our plan (or any other topic related to our district), please contact school personnel to seek clarification. If you are not sure who to contact you may contact my secretary, Mrs. Julia Young ([youngj@cory-rawson.org](mailto:youngj@cory-rawson.org)) or me. We would be happy to assist and/or point you towards the appropriate staff member. Gossip, rumors, and social media fallacies only create tension and distrust. To be blunt, there is already enough of that in this world.
3. Personally, many of you are aware of the major brain surgery I survived in the spring of 2019. That event emboldened me to share my faith more openly. With that in mind, I would ask those who are willing to pray, to do so for our community, district, state, nation, and world.

Heath A. Huffman



**Email Mr. Heath Huffman, Superintendent**

**Email Mrs. Julia Young, Secretary to the Superintendent**

**[Click Here to Complete Healthy Restart Committee Form](#)**

## And the Survey Says....

A survey was offered to district residents a few weeks ago regarding the 2020-2021 school year. Responses were provided from 222 individuals. Below are a few summary points from the results.

\*\*Most respondents (all but 1.4%) intend to allow their children to return to Cory-Rawson Schools in the fall.

\*\*77% of respondents prefer the district NOT require students to wear masks.

\*\*73% of respondents believe the district should NOT require staff to wear masks.

\*\*The following number of responses were chosen regarding educational options. As a reminder, parents could select more than one option.

\*143 respondents support in-school attendance all day everyday.

\*100 respondents chose in school attendance 2-3 days a week with online instruction other days.

\*70 respondents chose in-school attendance everyday for half-days.

\*40 respondents chose total remote instruction.

\*\*82% of respondents support the limitation of school visitors.

\*\*45% of respondents support the elimination of all field trips.

As stated above, these results will be used as a part of the decision-making process along with guidance from local and state agencies to develop our plan for a healthy restart in the fall. If you would like additional details related to our survey please contact me ([huffman@cory-rawson.org](mailto:huffman@cory-rawson.org))



## **Thank You to the Norwood, Burnette, & Robert Powell Family Foundation**

Spike Berry Field will look a little bit different this fall thanks to a generous donation from some of our wonderful alumni via the Norwood, Burnette, & Robert Powell Family Foundation of the Dayton Foundation. Norwood, Burnette, and Robert Powell were actively involved in athletics while attending Cory-Rawson High School. As a result of their involvement and the desire of the heirs to give back to this district, we are excited to announce the installation of our new football stadium bleachers on the western portion of the home-side of Spike Berry Field. We are thankful for this very generous and wonderful gift from the Powell family. Our football fans, band members, and students will enjoy this upgrade for years to come. Our alumni and district stakeholders continue to show why it truly is great to be a Hornet!

## Bus Drivers Needed!

Cory-Rawson Local Schools is in need of substitute bus drivers for the 2020-2021 academic year. Driving bus offers a great opportunity to serve the district while earning income. The district provides compensation for training/classes, the required physical examination, and testing. To learn more about this opportunity please contact Mr. Ben Smith, transportation supervisor, at 419.963.3415 ext. 5000 or via email at [smith@cory-rawson.org](mailto:smith@cory-rawson.org).



**Is there any update regarding the "hacking" of the June 18th Board of**

## **Education Meeting?**

As mentioned in a previous update, the Cory–Rawson Board of Education met on Thursday, June 18, 2020. The live feed from that meeting was "hi-jacked" by an individual who made many disgusting, derogatory comments. The actions of this individual forced the district to shutdown the virtual feed from the meeting. As a district we continue to work with The Northwest Ohio Area Computer Services Cooperative (NOACSC) and local law enforcement to investigate this unacceptable behavior and seek criminal charges against the individual if possible. At this point we have determined the location of the "hacker." He/She was not in our area at the time and was actually acting from out-of-state. Beyond this investigation necessary steps will also be taken to prevent this type of behavior in the future.

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**Our mailing address is:**

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