Dear Central School District families,

Thank you to our more than 1000 families who were able to complete the Reopening Schools Survey that was sent out a few weeks ago. The results of that survey can be found on our District webpage. Your input has played a critical role in our planning process. Although most of our families favor returning to school in person using a blended or traditional approach, we realize we do have some families who do not feel comfortable physically returning to our school campuses at this time. We have spent the last two weeks analyzing the survey results and meeting with District stakeholder groups to develop plans for several possible scenarios and to provide as many options as possible for our families.

CSD will welcome all students back to school for the 2020-2021 school year on August 10th.

We hope to be able to offer our families three (3) learning options to choose from:

1. **Blended Learning Program** - With safety measures and social distancing in place at our schools, classes will be divided in two groups and students will attend a morning or afternoon session Tuesday – Friday. Students will complete follow-up course work at home for the second half of the instructional day and on Mondays. This blended learning small class model will allow for social distancing and limit exposure to the virus. Details regarding how small groups of students will be assigned to classes, specific student schedules and safety expectations will be forthcoming in the weeks ahead. We continue to collaborate with our staff and parents to determine the safest way to implement this model.

2. **Central Alternative Remote Education (CARE) Program** is a learning platform for students whose families are seeking a bridge to returning to school due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This online program offers our students a structured education from a Central School District teacher while the student works remotely from home. The online learning program is an option for families who can supervise and support their child’s online learning from home, but want learning facilitated by a credentialed teacher. This program will be offered by Central School District for students who meet the requirements of Assembly Bill 77 and until all restrictions due to COVID-19 are lifted. For more information about the CARE program please go to our website https://csd-ca.schoolloop.com/.

3. **Central Homeschool Online Independent Course for Education (CHOICE) Program** is a blended online learning program for students who are seeking flexible, individualized education with the parent serving as teacher. This blended online program offers students a high-quality, tuition-free alternative to the traditional classroom-based learning experience through virtual classroom sessions. CHOICE participants check in with a CHOICE Coordinator twice a month so that student progress can be monitored. For more information about the CHOICE program please go to our website https://csd-ca.schoolloop.com/.
At this time, we are asking our families who are not planning to physically return to our Blended Learning Program on school campuses in August to visit our District web page for additional information about our CARE and CHOICE program options. Please complete an interest form if you would like to participate in one of these programs. Space in these programs will be limited and may not be available the closer we get to the beginning of the school year. Once you submit an interest form our CARE/CHOICE Coordinators will contact you personally to provide detailed information and answer your questions before final placement is determined. Parents and families who do not fill out an interest form will automatically be enrolled in the Blending Learning Program at their school. The specific details of the Blended Learning Program will be announced in mid-July.

Our decision to open schools in August under these three (3) learning program options was based on state guidelines for schools, meaningful input from our parent and staff surveys, and recommendations from several stakeholder meetings that included teachers, support staff, administrators, parents, and community members. Safety and Learning were kept as the top priority for all discussions and decisions.

In summary, our plan to date is to open schools on August 10th utilizing the three (3) program models described above. Opening our schools with these options is fluid and contingent on COVID-19 cases in our region and state guidelines for schools. While we hope to return to a traditional model of instruction in the future, it is essential to maintain a readiness to adapt to the trends of COVID-19. This could mean that we may need to implement a 100% online model if directed to do so by officials.

I want to thank all of the CSD staff, parents and community members who participated in our surveys and stakeholder groups who offered their thoughts, opinions, concerns and ideas regarding these complex decisions.

Sincerely,

Donna Libutti