



August 16, 2020

Dear Granite City District 9 families,

I want to thank you all for your concerns and questions about start of the 2020-2021 school year. We have a great district and I am so proud to serve within it. The first day of the school year has always been one of my favorite days of the year, especially when I was a student. That excitement I felt every year continues to this day. Skilled and passionate teachers and staff that truly want to engage our students in learning the best way possible. This school year will look different and far from what we would refer to as "normal", but it is still time to begin an exciting new school year for our students.

While this school year will most definitely look and feel unusual, I believe with my heart that we will provide our students with an education that inspires learning and creativity. All grade level teachers have already been working hard to prepare engaging lessons, activities, and social/emotional support for their students. We will have the Chromebooks here in the district prior to the official school start of August 24th, and the entire staff will be working to have them ready for students as soon as possible. Loading curriculum, software, and preparing them for distribution takes some time, but please be assured that our efforts to have the devices ready for students will be the number one priority.

We are excited to be able to provide students 3-12 with their own Chromebooks and not have to share per household as we had originally thought might be necessary. ***A Distribution plan will be sent out by the end of the week with details about times and locations based upon your child's school.***

The District has applied for another Illinois digital grant which would allow us to purchase more devices for grades 1 & 2. Until then, teachers in these grades have truly been amazing in preparing lessons, readings, activities, and assessments for these students. Schedules for initial reading, writing and activity packet pickup will be sent out by the end of the week as well. Teachers will be utilizing various forms of consistent communication with parents and guardians to ensure that students have consistent teacher feedback. Building and individual teacher schedules will be sent out early this week.

The entire staff is gearing up to prepare for all student needs including food and packet distribution. School Buses will be running routes to bus stops to help provide food on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays to all students without the need for personal transportation. *The detailed routes and times will also be sent out early this week.* Buses may also be utilized to transport materials back and forth between teacher and student, proving a better opportunity for those without consistent transportation.

I look forward to collaborating and communicating with all of you this year and hope to allow our students back in school when the environment is safe for them to do so. Thank you all for your patience and flexibility as we work through these unpredictable times while providing the best education possible for your children.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephanie M. Cann'.

Ms. Stephanie M. Cann, Ed.S.
Superintendent of Schools