



Smart Restart Update

10.5.2020

Dear Fargo Public Schools Families and Staff,

On October 5, the Fargo Public Schools (FPS) COVID-19 Instructional Plan Committee met to decide the Instructional Level for our schools beginning **October 19 (Middle and High School) and October 26 (Elementary Schools):**

Elementary Schools: Level 4 – In-Person Instruction Beginning October 26

Middle Schools: Level 3 – Hybrid Learning Beginning October 19

High Schools: Level 3 – Hybrid Learning Beginning October 19

Elementary School

Elementary In-Person Instruction (Level 4) beginning October 26 will include four days per week of in-person instruction (Monday-Thursday) and one day of distance learning (Friday). This model allows:

- Teachers to have preparation and planning time to work with students that are quarantined.
- Teachers to receive preparation and planning time in a manner that does not increase mixing different classrooms of students during times such as recess and lunch.

Additionally, an hour will be added back to the in-person instruction days to the end of the school day. Drop off times for students will remain 15 minutes prior to the school's start time. After an evaluation of COVID-19 impacts in Fargo Public Schools in Level 4, FPS will make determinations of when to return to in-person instruction five days per week. *Additional information will be forthcoming from school administration later this week on the change to Level 4 instruction.*

Early Childhood Special Education Program

On October 26, Early Childhood Special Education students will return to in-person instruction four days per week. Students will attend school Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Wednesdays will continue to be for indirect services and meetings. The hours for each session will remain the same (Morning 8:00-10:30 a.m. and Afternoon 12:10-2:40 p.m.) to allow for sufficient cleaning and sanitization between sessions.

Middle and High School

Middle and High School Hybrid Learning (Level 3) beginning October 19 will use a schedule that consists of four alternating days and one day of distance learning. On weeks with five days of school, this schedule will include alternating days Monday-Thursday and distance learning will occur on Friday. On weeks with fewer than five school days, an alternate calendar will be developed. **Please see the calendar below for more information.** *Additional information will be forthcoming from school administration later this*



week on the change to Level 3 instruction. Since the week of October 19 is a short week, Group 1 will receive in-person instruction on Monday, October 19, Group 2 will receive in-person instruction on Tuesday, October 20, and all students will receive distance learning opportunities on Wednesday, October 21. Additionally, an hour will be added back to the in-person instruction days to the end of the school day.

Woodrow Wilson High School and Agassiz Programs

Woodrow Wilson High School and the Adult Learning Center will continue with its current plan and schedule.

Decision Making Factors

Fargo Public Schools will continue to work with Fargo Cass Public Health to determine the conditions required to provide in-person instruction for all students. On August 24, the FPS COVID-19 Instructional Plan Committee discussed utilizing a model to help decide the appropriate Level for FPS based on localized COVID-19 data. At that meeting, it was decided that in conjunction with data such as the number of cases impacting Fargo Public Schools staff and students, staff leave data, and substitute teacher fill rate, the committee would use one specific model to help guide the determination of the FPS Instructional Plan Level. The model was never the sole determining factor for the committee decision. Additionally, since then, new research has been shared about the hybrid instructional model and data specific to schools based on schools re-opening. These new factors have shown that the model may not be the best indicator for all decisions moving forward. Therefore, the model will be considered, but will not be used as the sole determining factor by the committee. The committee will continue to look at a wide variety of factors, including but not limited to Cass County data, FPS specific data, and updated research and guidance for decision making.

The goal of the Fargo Public Schools COVID-19 Instructional Plan Committee is to help Fargo Public Schools reach Level 5, where all students and staff can safely return to in-person instruction. Thank you for your continued understanding as we seek to achieve Fargo Public Schools' mission of educating and empowering all students to succeed during this pandemic.

Sincerely,

Rupak Gandhi, Ph.D.
Superintendent



Fargo Public Schools Secondary 2020-21 School Calendar

Sept 2 – Oct 2 ~ Hybrid (**Group 1** / **Group 2**)

Oct 5 – Oct 16 ~ Distance Learning (**Odd Period Days** / **Even Period Days**)

Oct 19 – Oct 30 ~ Hybrid (**Group 1** / **Group 2** / **Distance Learning Both Groups**)

November 2 and Beyond ~ To Be Determined / **No School**

September '20						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

October '20						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November '20						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

