



WHITESIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT 115

*111 Warrior Way
Belleville, Illinois 62221*

Telephone 618 239-0000
Middle School Fax 618 239-9240
Elementary School Fax 618 233-7931
<http://www.wssd115.org>

*Mark Heuring
Superintendent
Monica Laurent
Middle School Principal*

*Jamie Cotto
Middle School Associate Principal
Nathan Rakers
Elementary Principal
Kevin Johnson
Elementary Assistant Principal*

For Immediate Release

Joint Statement –

Whiteside School District and Whiteside Federation of Teachers

Whiteside School District 115 will host a Special Board of Education meeting on Thursday, August 6th, at 7:00 p.m. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss recent data from student registrations regarding in-person and remote learners. Currently, our data has approximately 70% of our students returning for in-person learning. Due to this percentage along with the continued increase in COVID 19 related cases in our region, District 115 will discuss options for students to still be able to return to in-person learning starting in August.

Our concerns for reviewing and making possible changes to the in-person learning plan revolve around the percentages and following variables of social distancing at lunch, in the classroom, hallway transitions, and during transportation. Our current plan relied on more students selecting the remote option for the upcoming school year to provide appropriate social distancing recommended by the Illinois State Board of Education Guidance documents. The Board of Education will review the Return to Learn data and evaluate the best mode for students to attend in-person instruction. Changes to our current plan may cause the Whiteside School District to delay the start of the school year.

The Whiteside School District will provide updated information regarding possible changes to families on Friday, August 7th. We ask that our district stakeholders be patient as we work through the details. Our goal is still to return to in-person learning by creating a safe and manageable student population. Thank you in advance for understanding the challenges that we face as a school community to ensure the safety of our students, faculty, staff, and the community as well.

Respectfully,

Mark Heuring, Superintendent
Maura Brueggeman, Union Co-President
Mark Poettgen, Union Co-President