



"In my 32 years in public education, I have never experienced something so profound and complex." These are the words of Clarkdale-Jerome School Superintendent Danny Brown in his letter yesterday to stakeholders. Town Manager Tracie Hlavinka and I had lunch in the Park with Danny yesterday to talk about the school's plans for reopening and how the Town could participate and contribute to the continued high quality of our kids' education, while keeping everyone as safe as possible. The Superintendent just sent out a letter to all parents of C-J kids, in which he explains the three main strategies for education in the near future. These are all aimed at delivering high-quality education in a safe environment for the children, teachers and staff at the school.

His quote tells you a lot about what you need to know, and during our discussion it became very clear that the school will need to remain flexible in the face of unknown pandemic conditions, and that each strategy will need to allow for rapid adaptations and the possibility of recurring or continuing need for major safety measures as we head into the school year. I felt very confident that Danny and the C-J School Board have done their homework, and that they have kept kids' safety at the forefront of their decisions. You can read his letter to parents here: (insert link to the attached document).

Some unexpected challenges are: how to bus kids to school while maintaining safe distancing on the buses; how to space desks in classrooms safely and still be able to deliver education to all the school's kids; how and where to feed kids lunch; how to manage school supplies to minimize transmission of the virus; how to provide the maximum ventilation in classrooms to minimize aerosol transmission; how to get kids from class to class to minimize crowding together; how to keep teachers safe; how to maintain curriculum alignment when some kids are distance learning and others are learning in classrooms; how to make sure distance learning is equitable for all kids, and making sure there is sufficient IT support for parents and students unfamiliar with on-line applications; and so many more. You can see that Danny's quote actually minimizes the challenges.

The Town's job will be to help support and facilitate the school's strategies. We have pledged that we will do whatever we can to make sure that children arrive at school safely, that they

have the tools they need to succeed, and that we will cooperate with C-J School to the greatest extent while they are feeling their way through the upcoming reopening. Please support our school, and please remain understanding of the fact that whatever they do, they are responding to unknown conditions with our kids in mind in "something so profound and complex", and that they have never had to deal with before.

We're with you, C-J, and we pledge our support in any way that we possible can!



**Doug Von Gausig**

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