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August 3, 2020

Dear Jo Daviess Carroll Career Technical Education (CTE) Academy Families:

We hope everyone is well and you're ready for the 2020-2021 school year! We're preparing for our NEW Juniors and returning/NEW Seniors. The CTE Academy is scheduled to be back in-session with in-person learning on Wednesday, August 19, 2020. This marks the 49th Anniversary of the Jo Daviess Carroll Area Vocational Center (AVC) and CTE Academy!

Our **Return-to-Learn** plan is constantly changing as we collaborate with our six (6) feeder school districts: Galena, River Ridge, Scales Mound, Stockton, Warren, and West Carroll. We're also attempting to stay up-to-date on the research and recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Governor Pritzker, Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), Jo Daviess County Public Health Department, and other sources. Our **Return-to-Learn** plan and **Student Handbook** will be posted on our website in late July/early August. However, we will update the **Return-to-Learn** plan as needed. Please stay-tuned for updates!

There are certain words and phrases we will always carry with us into the "new normal:" Coronavirus; COVID-19; challenging; face coverings/masks; metrics; mitigation; in-person, remote, and blended learning; pandemic; personal protective equipment (PPE); positivity-rate; social distancing; stay-at-home; unprecedented; Restore Illinois; and many, many more. Our thoughts are with the individual and families in the United States and around the world impacted by COVID-19! Our thoughts and sincere thanks are with our 1st responders, health professionals, front-line workers, and volunteers! We cannot thank them enough!

Our CTE Academy staff have been preparing for in-person, remote, and blended learning. We have to be prepared for all forms of learning and be ready to transition from one plan to another seamlessly. We're also spending time thoroughly cleaning and sanitizing the CTE Academy. A special thanks to Tri-State Clean!

In-Person Learning: CTE Academy students will be cleared before leaving their home school districts with daily self-certification and/or temperature checks. Home school districts will also ensure their students have face coverings before they board the school bus to the CTE Academy. However, the CTE Academy also has the capability to check temperatures and provide disposable face coverings if necessary.

Daily self-certification ensures students will only attend in-person learning if they are free of COVID-19 symptoms and feeling well. All CTE Academy staff will also self-certify and/or have temperature checks daily.

The CTE Academy staff will also receive professional learning on identifying and reporting COVID-19 symptoms. CTE Academy students will receive education and **frequent** reminders of CDC recommendations. We will educate, practice, and hold students and staff accountable for their own safety and the safety of their peers and CTE Academy staff.

We have response and communication protocols in place to all six (6) feeder school districts in case any of our students and/or staff have COVID-19 symptoms and/or feeling ill. We have an isolation room prepared if necessary. The student will be supervised while in isolation. The family of the student in isolation will be contacted immediately (in addition to contacting a student's home school district). We have a space-by-space plan for daily cleaning and sanitizing our CTE Academy between the AM and PM sessions and after the PM session (ready for the NEXT day's AM session).

Remote and Blended Learning: Our CTE Academy staff will be communicating with our students through e-mail, Zoom, and Google Classroom (G Suite). The Remote and Blended Learning will feature live streaming and recorded instruction. Students will be expected to sign-in daily for attendance and complete all assignments as if they were in-person. All assignments and assessments will be graded during the 2020-2021 school year.

In-Person, Remote, and Blended Learning: We will be collaborating with our six (6) feeder school districts on in-person, remote, and blended learning. Each of the school districts' Return-to-Learn plans will have similarities and differences. In all likelihood, the **Return-to-Learn** plans of our six (6) feeder school districts will also be constantly changing as warranted. I have been extremely impressed with the communication and preparation of our school districts. Superintendents and Jo Daviess County Health Department have been having weekly Zoom and Google Meet meetings during the summer (at least weekly).

Thank you to our CTE Academy students and families for participating in Remote Learning during the spring! We sincerely appreciated your patience, support, and understanding during these unprecedented times. We congratulate our graduated Seniors and wish them success! Thank you for spending time with us and we're genuinely sorry we were unable to finish your Senior year with you!

Please e-mail or telephone if you have any comments, concerns, and/or questions. Thank you for your time and consideration! Take care! Be safe! Be well!

Sincerely,

Kris Hall, CTE Academy Director

C: CTE Academy Staff