

*We recognize that there are varying degrees of anxiety about sending children to school and having a better sense of what it will generally be like would help families in their decision-making process. Please know the health and safety of all our children and staff is our **Number One** priority, and it must be the Number One priority of EVERYONE in our school community – we must all commit to this work together!*

We've spent a tremendous amount of time developing a creative, thoughtful, and responsive plan that not only reflects and respects the needs of our families but will remain adaptable to the ever-changing and complicated nature of this situation. As we further develop new or improved ideas, we'll continue to adjust the plan accordingly.

What Will School Life Be Like?

Before Arrival

Parent/caregivers will assess their child/ren for COVID-related symptoms and complete the health survey on the district's new health app. Any symptomatic child must stay home from school. PLEASE, when in doubt please keep your child home to monitor. For our plan to work, we must all be extra vigilant.

The Bus Ride

Healthy children will wait with their caregiver at their bus stop, socially distanced from others at the stop. When the bus arrives at the stop, children will board the bus safely distanced and wearing masks and sit in their assigned seats. There will never be more than two children on a three-person seat unless everyone on that seat is from the same household. The entire front row will be empty and there will never be more than 40 students on a bus. Everyone on the bus will keep their masks on for the entire ride.

Arrival

The BUSES will arrive in Gate 1 between 8:00 and 8:10. Buses will be unloaded one at a time if their arrival times are staggered, or by grade level if buses are there together. The goal is to keep everyone safely distanced and avoid crowding. All students will continue wearing their masks as they enter the building. Elementary students will enter through the lower lobby. Middle school students will enter through the cafeteria. Depending on the situation, middle school students may be split between the lobby and the cafeteria – again, avoiding crowding is key. Staff members will be positioned throughout and along the arrival paths (lobbies, stairwells, cafeteria, and hallways) to ensure students maintain distancing.

Children dropped off by CAR will arrive in Gate 2 and will enter the school properly distanced and wearing masks. Drop-off will be supervised and facilitated by staff members.

The Classroom First, Then the Cubby/Locker

All children will walk directly to their classrooms and sit in their assigned seats. They may place their jackets or backpacks on their seat or under their desks. From there, the classroom teacher will direct students to put their belongings in their cubbies or lockers in a manner that maintains social distancing. In the middle school, each locker will be labeled with a letter between A and F. If teachers stagger locker/cubby visits by letter assignment, students with the same locker/cubby letter will be able to maintain social distancing.

Students in the middle school may be directed to their lockers in the following order: A-D-B-E-C-F.

(Visually [with number being the order called]: |A1|---|B3|---|C5|---|D2|---|E4|---|F6|---|A1|...)

Classroom Life

While our teachers are working hard to make the classroom a warm and inviting place, desks will be in rows six feet apart from each other instead of in clusters. The walls will still be colorful, but there may not be as much furniture. Each desk will also have a three-sided, see-through carrel to further prevent the travel of germs while still allowing for engagement. Everyone will be wearing masks and will have opportunities throughout the day to wash hands and use hand sanitizer.

The teacher will teach primarily from the front of the room using the classroom TruTouch, a laptop, a document camera, as well as other non-tech resources. High-touch resources won't be shared between students. The teacher will circulate as needed to support learning, but overall movement in the room will be more limited. That said, our teachers are creative and they're looking at ways to have kids working in other spaces besides their desks, such as on mats or even outside. Children will also get stretching breaks, mask breaks, time to have a snack at their seats, and more.

The class may also include classmates who are learning remotely from home. Those students will be visible to the teacher on his/her laptop via Teams. At times, all children or small groups of children may be collaborating virtually on their respective laptops. At times, the teacher may call on a classmate who is remote as part of a class conversation, even though the teacher's primary attention is on the students physically in the room.

Related Arts, World Language, and PE

Most of the children's related arts classes will be in their classroom, but our teachers have space options within the school that will allow for occasional movement to another location for class. Larger spaces such as the auditorium, cafeteria, gym, and field will be used whenever possible provided the nature of the activity and the required distancing are appropriate and available for the location.

Outdoor Options

We want all our children to get fresh air every single day if possible. We're setting up two large tents for outdoor learning, as well as mapping out large exercise zones throughout the fields where whole classes of children can take off their masks and maintain twelve feet of distance as required for heavier activity. These zones can be electronically scheduled for use by the teachers throughout the day.

Hallways and Stairs

All students and staff will continue to wear masks in all hallways and shared spaces. Hallway usage will be staggered to limit occupancy, classes will walk on "the right side of the road" and maintain distancing while walking. Floor signage will be everywhere throughout the building to support and remind.

Lunch and Recess

Before leaving the classroom and going to lunch or recess, all students will wash their hands or use hand sanitizer.

Lunch: Pre-K and Kindergarteners will eat lunch in their classrooms, supervised by monitors or aides. Grades 1 through 8 will usually eat lunch in the cafeteria on a staggered schedule that allows for disinfecting between shifts and keeping grade level cohorts separate from each other.

When eating in the cafeteria, all students will walk directly to assigned seats. “Walkways” will be outlined around the perimeter of the cafeteria, plus a “crosswalk” through the middle in order to organize traffic. Ordered lunches will be placed on rolling carts in advance and be delivered to the students at their seats, so there will be no waiting on lines. There will be no microwaves, so any warming/cooking needs to be done at home in the morning and placed in an insulated container. Barriers will also be in place so that students can take their masks off safely.

Lunch may also take place for grades 1 through 8 in their classrooms as necessary. In those cases, purchased lunches will be placed on carts in advance and delivered to the classrooms.

The covered outdoor space under the cafeteria will also be set up for outdoor dining when the weather cooperates. This space will be scheduled on a rotating basis. We may also use one of the tents as an additional outdoor dining space, or a section of the gym if necessary.

Recess: The outdoor field will be divided into at least four zones, each measuring 60’ by 60’, enough to easily space 16 children twelve feet apart. We will also be creating “walking tracks” around the field, with guide-lanes six feet apart, so children can get light exercise while chatting together. There will be no competitive field games or games involving close quarters. The playground equipment will be monitored and occupancy will be limited. There will also be two 30’ by 30’ tents for shade.

If the weather is bad, indoor recess will be held in the two sections of the gym. All students must remain in masks and be twelve feet apart, and visual markers will be placed on the gymnasium floor. Capacity is limited to twenty students per side of the gym. Pre-K and Kindergarten students will have indoor recess in the classroom.

The library will be closed to students during recess until further notice.

Students will wash their hands or use hand sanitizer upon returning to the classroom from lunch and recess.

Dismissal – Elementary School

Beginning at 2:20, teachers will start preparing and dismissing students down to the bus circle. Pre-K, K, and 1st grade classes will dismiss directly from their classroom exterior doors one child per room every few seconds to stagger the flow. Grade 2 teachers will lead their children down the back staircase and out through the lobby. Grades 3 and 4 will dismiss down the library staircase and through the lobby. A staff member will be stationed near the top of the stairs by the library to coordinate traffic.

Dismissal – Middle School

Students in the middle school may be directed to their lockers in the following order: A-D-B-E-C-F.

(Visually [with number being the order]: |A1|---|B3|---|C5|---|D2|---|E4|---|F6|---|A1|...)

Since lockers are largely on the right side as students walk out of the middle school (except in the 7/8 wing), students will dismiss single file down the left side of the hallway furthest from the lockers. Staff will be in the hallways to help direct flow. Students in grades 5-8 will dismiss via the cafeteria walkways, down to the gym lobby, and out to the bus circle.

Dismissal – Car Pick-Up

In the car circle, a staff member will be positioned near the entrance of Gate 2 and will stop/identify each car and then radio out that the caregiver has arrived for a student to come down to the pickup area. Other staff members will be positioned within the building where students are being held to dismiss them once the radio call comes through.

Middle school students being picked up by car will report to the front half of the cafeteria to sit in distanced seats and await the announcement that their car has arrived.

Elementary students will wait across the hall from their classroom, properly distanced, awaiting the announcement that their car has arrived.

Aftercare

Students in aftercare will work in the back half of the cafeteria, safely spaced from each other. Pick-up will take place in Gate 1, and students will be called down via radio from the security desk.