

NORTH WASCO COUNTY SD # 21

Reopening Presentation

August 19, 2021





D21 2021/2022 Back to School Plan (Draft)

COVID-19 Health and Safety Approach

- In-person learning is our priority and aligns with the Oregon Department of Education's (ODE) mandate that schools must plan to provide full-time, in-person instruction for all students every school day for the 2021-22 school year.
- In collaboration with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), ODE updated [Ready Schools, Safe Learners Resiliency Framework](#) for the 2021-22 school year on August 17, 2021.
- Each school district is required to submit a "Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services" Plan by August 27, 2021 to the ODE [Return to In-Person Instruction Plan](#)
- The following draft plan has been developed utilizing the RSSL Framework and input from our stakeholders. We continue to solicit and welcome input from our stakeholders. We will regularly assess the plan and update it as needed, including in response to changing state and federal guidance and regulations.



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Equity

The North Wasco County School District remains committed to the health and safety of students, staff, and community, and the following guiding principles outlined by the Oregon Department of Education:

- Ensure safety and wellness. Prioritizing basic needs to support mental, social, and emotional health of students and staff.
- Center health and well-being. Commit to creating learning opportunities that foster creative expression, reflection and connection, centering on the needs of the whole child.
- Cultivate connection and relationships. Reconnect through quality learning experiences and deep interpersonal relationships among families, students and staff.



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Equity

The North Wasco County School District remains committed to the health and safety of students, staff, and community, and the following guiding principles outlined by the Oregon Department of Education:

- **Prioritize equity.** Recognize disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on marginalized communities; Apply an equity-informed lens to promote culturally sustaining and revitalizing educational systems that support every child.

- **Innovate.** Rethink learning environments, and invest in creative approaches to address unfinished learning.



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Mental Health - Care and Connection Focus

ODE recognizes that mental health, which encompasses emotional, social, cognitive and behavioral functioning, is one of the cornerstones of public education, and central to building school cultures and climates where every student, and all who serve them, thrive.

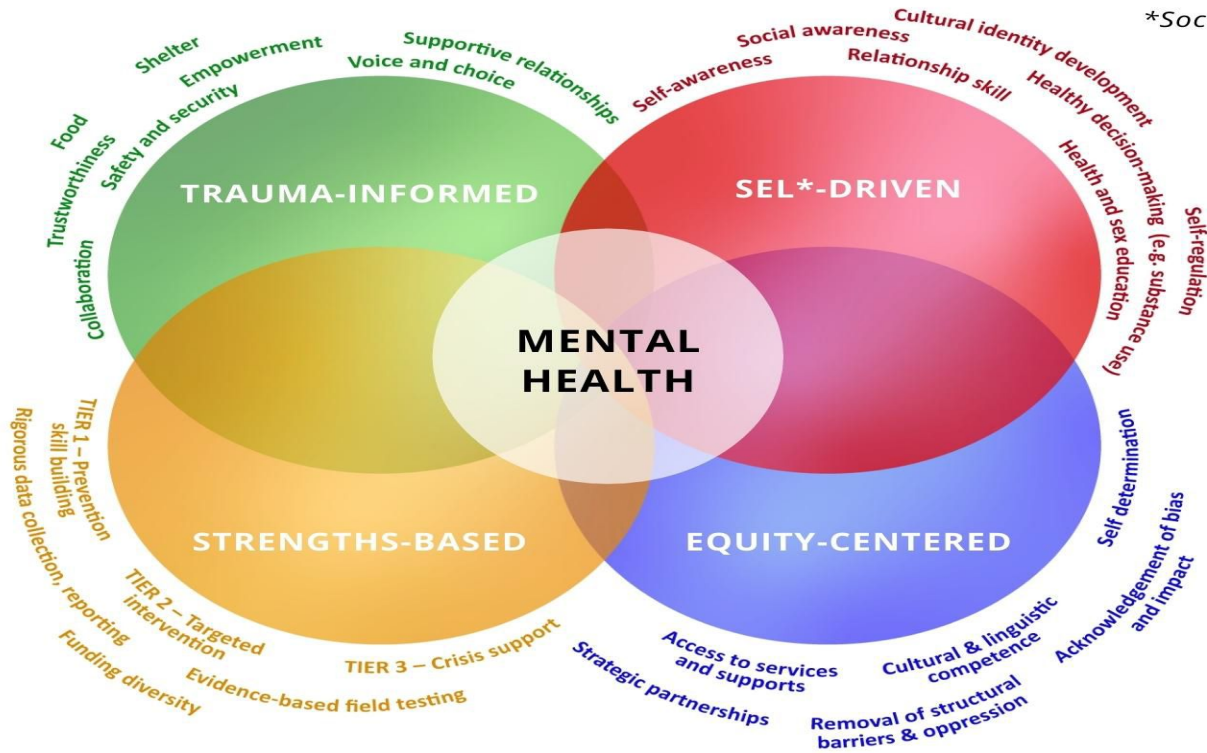
- New school year likely to elicit a range of emotions;
- Each school drafting a plan to support student/staff health and well-being;
- The school year will begin with reflection and connection to support health and well-being;
- Throughout the year, time and space will be created to reflect, connect, and make meaning of last year.



Integrated Model of Mental Health

Mental health emphasizes strengths, resilience, and enhancing social-emotional abilities

**Social-emotional learning*



CONTINUUM OF CARE

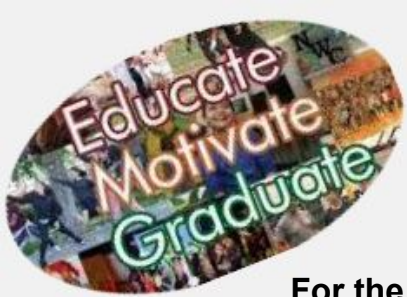
Physiological needs

Safety & security

Relationships, connections, community

Purpose & self-efficacy

Self-actualization



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Return to Existing State Requirements

For the 2021-22 school year, schools and districts will be returning to the existing requirements:

1. Maintain a communicable disease management plan (**OAR 581-022-2220**)
2. Exclude staff or students from school who have been exposed to COVID-19 (**OAR 333-019-0010**)
3. Maintain health care and space that isolates sick or injured students (**OAR 581-022-2320**)
4. Meet all standard instructional time requirements in Division 22 (**OAR 581-022-0102(30)** and **OAR 581-022-2320**)
5. Complete an independent adoption of any digital instructional materials used as core curriculum (**OAR 581-022-2350**)
6. Administer state assessments as required by state and federal law (**ORS 329.485**; **OAR 581-022-2100**)
7. Reinstate the 10-day drop rule for enrollment (**OAR 581-023-0006(4)**), attendance and reporting practices (**OAR 581-023-006(1)(f)**) and notifications (**ORS 339.071**)



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Mitigation Measures

It should be noted and emphasized that what happens with COVID-19 between now and during the school year may require changes in our state's response efforts, and the Back to School plan will be updated to reflect those changes. COVID-19 continues to change with the new variants and our knowledge of the mitigation efforts grows over time.

For these reasons, the guidance for responding to COVID-19 also changes. Currently the best tools to protect individuals are vaccination for those eligible, physical distancing, face coverings, ventilation and airflow, handwashing, and staying home if ill or exposed to someone with COVID-19.

KEY PRACTICES FOR REDUCING SPREAD OF COVID-19 IN SCHOOLS

The mainstays of reducing exposure to the coronavirus and other respiratory pathogens are:



Vaccination – The most powerful tool available to stop the spread of COVID-19.



Protective Equipment – Use of face coverings, barriers and face shields.



Cohorts – Conducting all activities in small groups that remain together over time with minimal mixing of groups.



Physical Distancing – At least three feet with other people.



Isolation & Quarantine – Isolation separates sick people from people who are not sick. Quarantine separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick.



Hand Hygiene – Frequent washing with soap and water or using hand sanitizer.



Environmental Cleaning & Disinfection – Especially of high touch surfaces.



Airflow & Circulation – Outdoor activities are safer than indoor activities; maximize airflow in closed spaces.



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Mitigation Measure 1 - Face Coverings

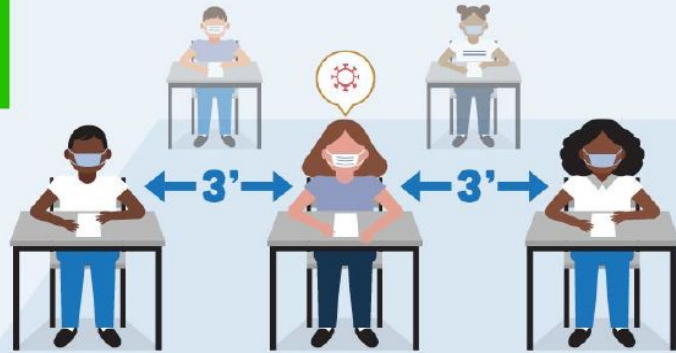
- In response to the rising cases of COVID-19 in the state and the emergence of the highly transmissible Delta variant, OHA has implemented a new statewide rule (**OAR 333-019-1015**) effective August 2, 2021 that requires students, staff, and visitors to wear face coverings when in school buildings. This rule will be reviewed monthly to determine the need for it to continue.
- In cases where students may have been exposed to someone infected with COVID-19, if students maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance and consistently wear well-fitting face coverings (and other general mitigation measures are in place in the school), then those students will not need to quarantine.
- Taken together, these two steps will help ensure that fewer students will spend time out of school under quarantine or out sick with COVID-19.



UNIVERSAL AND CORRECT USE OF FACE COVERINGS KEEPS KIDS LEARNING IN-PERSON, WHICH WE ALL AGREE IS BEST FOR STUDENTS.



Face coverings mean more days in school for students.



When students are at least 3' apart and everyone is wearing a face covering, students who are in close contact with someone with COVID-19 **don't need to quarantine** unless they have symptoms.



Without face coverings and at least 3' of distance, students in close contact to someone with COVID-19 **will need to quarantine, and miss school days**. This could include all members of the stable small group (cohort).



If no face coverings are worn and students do not **distance**, it becomes more difficult to track close contacts. Exposure to a confirmed case can compound when students shift to new classrooms or visit other indoor spaces in the school, such as the library or gym. This could lead to **quarantining of full grades or full school closure**.



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Mitigation Measure 1 - Face Coverings

In accordance with the Oregon Health Authority's new statewide rule (OAR 333-019-1015), **face coverings for all students, staff, and visitors will be required in school buildings and on district transportation with certain exceptions:**

- While actively eating or drinking,
- While playing a musical instrument that requires use of the mouth
- While the sole occupant of a room and behind a closed door
- For children under the age of 2

This rule applies to individuals at school during regular school hours, at school engaged in educational activities outside of regular school hours, as well as when engaged in educational activities such as field trips or off-campus classes during regular school hours.

OHA will review this rule monthly to determine the need for it to continue.



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Mitigation Measures 2 and 3 - Physical Distancing and Handwashing

NWCSD will support and promote maintaining physical distancing of 3 feet at all time to the extent possible. Students, staff, and visitors will be asked to be mindful of physical distancing and to wash or sanitize their hands frequently. Staff will continue to provide instruction and positive reinforcement to remind, motivate and reinforce healthy practices with students.

NWCSD will promote physical distancing by doing the following when possible:

- Support physical distancing in all daily activities and instruction, maintaining at least 3 feet between students to the extent possible.
- Consider physical distancing requirements when setting up learning and other spaces, arranging spaces and groups to allow and encourage at least 3 feet of physical distance.
- Minimize time standing in lines and take steps to ensure that required distance between students is maintained, including marking spacing on floor, one-way traffic flow in constrained spaces, etc.



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Mitigation Measure 4 - Cohorting

OHA and ODE strongly advise that schools design cohorts for students to the extent possible. Cohorting refers to establishing a consistent group of students that stays together for a significant portion of the school day. NWCSD will maintain cohorting at the elementary and middle school settings to the extent possible.

Where cohorting is not possible, and in alignment with CDC recommendations, implementing the use of consistent face covering and 3 feet distancing is an equally effective mitigation strategy where consistent cohorting cannot be achieved.



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Mitigation Measure 5 - Isolation and Quarantining

Isolation and quarantine are core components under the authority of public health (LPHAs and OHA) as described in ORS 431A.010, 433.441, and 433.443. Schools and districts must cooperate with any LPHA investigations and requirements to protect public health.

NWCSD continues to encourage parents to keep children home who are exhibiting COVID-19 primary symptoms. The district will follow public health authority guidance requirements regarding isolation and quarantine procedures.

An exposure is defined as an individual who has close contact (less than 6 feet) for longer than 15 cumulative minutes in a day with a person who is infected with COVID-19.



In alignment with recommendations from the CDC, the following exception from quarantine is effective in the K-12 indoor classroom setting: students who were within 3 or more feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) where both students were engaged in consistent and correct use of well-fitting face coverings; and other K-12 school prevention strategies (such as universal and correct face covering use, physical distancing, increased ventilation) were in place in the K-12 school setting. This exception does not apply to teachers, staff or other adults in the classroom setting.



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Mitigation Measure 6 - Ventilation and Cleaning Protocols

Ventilation and proper cleaning protocols are effective methods to reduce viral spread indoors and promote a healthy learning environment. NWCSD is committed to maintaining appropriate indoor air quality and routine cleaning of schools. A full report on the ventilation and cleaning protocols will be available on the district website.

In summary, the district will be using a combination of the following strategies:

- Increasing the amount of fresh outside air that is introduced into the HVAC system
- Exhausting air from indoors to the outdoors (air exchanges) and
- Cleaning the air that is recirculated indoors with effective filtration methods (e.g., HEPA filters) to remove virus-containing particles from the air
- Daily cleaning of high-touch surfaces



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Mitigation Measure 7 - Vaccinations

At this time, students are not required to get COVID-19 related vaccinations, in order to attend school at the North Wasco County School District. In the event of a COVID-19 exposure, students who are eligible to receive the vaccine, may voluntarily disclose their vaccine status and the quarantine time period may not be required.

Announced just today, Governor Brown has directed the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to create a rule that will require all teachers, staff, contractors and volunteers to be vaccinated. School personnel will have until Oct. 18 or six weeks after a vaccine is federally approved, whichever comes later, to be fully vaccinated. The rules are still being worked out, including penalties and who it applies to and when.

All NWCSD employees have had the opportunity to be vaccinated.

NWCSD will continue to provide information to families regarding vaccination opportunities.



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Virtual Online Program

NWCSD is preparing to offer a virtual online program to families of students who are immunocompromised and/or medically fragile or who live with a member of their family directly impacted by the effects of COVID-19.



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Visitors and Volunteers

Due to the current surge of the Delta variant and the ineligibility of our student population under the age of 12 to be vaccinated for COVID-19, visitors and/or volunteers will not be permitted on our school campuses at the beginning of our school year during the school day.

We will continue to meet with our Local Public Health Authority (LPHA) weekly to review this topic and when/if conditions improve in collaboration and with the recommendation of our LPHA we will consider and make adjustments in this area.



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A Day in the Life of an Elementary School Student

- ❑ Arrival between 7:40-7:55 AM
- ❑ Students visually screened and sent to assigned cohort location
- ❑ Further screening during class attendance
- ❑ Breakfast in Classroom (3ft distance, same direction)



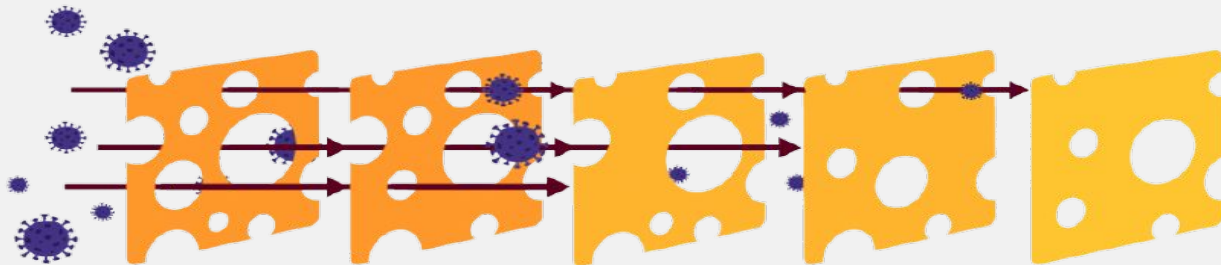


D21 2021/2022 Back to School Plan (Draft)

A Day in the Life of an Elementary School Student

Classrooms will have multiple mitigation strategies in place

- Physical Distancing (3 ft when possible)
- Masking for all staff and students while indoors
- Hand Hygiene
- Practice and Teach Respiratory etiquette
- True HEPA Filters and Increased Ventilation
- Seating Chart for Contact Tracing



D21 2021/2022 Back to School Plan (Draft)

A Day in the Life of an Elementary School Student

- ❑ Targeted instruction focused on Priority State Standards
- ❑ Connection and Community Building
- ❑ Stable Cohorts for Specials (PE, Music, Library)
- ❑ Stable Cohorts for Intervention Services (ELD, Title 1)
- ❑ Enrichment Activities for Students at or Above Benchmark
- ❑ Continue to Accelerate Unfinished Learning





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Lunch and Recess

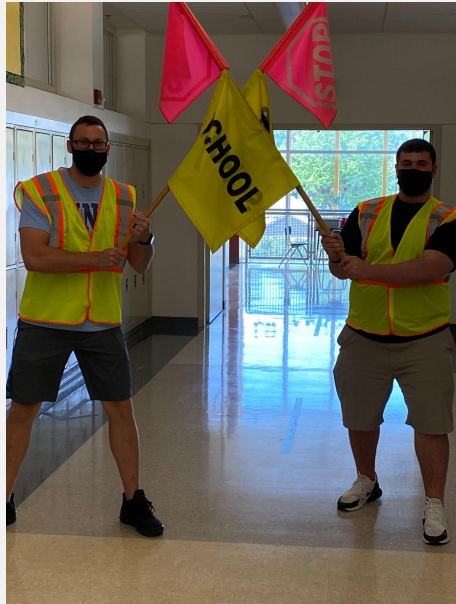
- ❑ Socially Distanced (3 ft min) at Lunch in Stable Cohorts
- ❑ Masks optional for students outside of the building on the playground (Social Distancing Monitored)
- ❑ Stable Cohorts of Students Maintained at all Times





D21 2021/2022 Back to School Plan (Draft)

Welcome Back to the Life of a Middle School Student



- ❖ August 30th, 6th Grade Only, August 31st, All Students
- ❖ Doors open at 7:40 am M, T, Th, F and 9:15 am Wed.
- ❖ Students will put belongings away in lockers and be welcomed into class by teachers





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Safety First at The Dalles Middle School

- ❖ Mitigation strategies will be in place
 - Hand sanitizing will be frequent
 - Students will be visually screened
 - Students will be socially distant,
 - Students will be wearing masks
 - Students will be in small groups as they eat Breakfast in the classroom and wait for class to start





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Classes at The Dalles Middle School

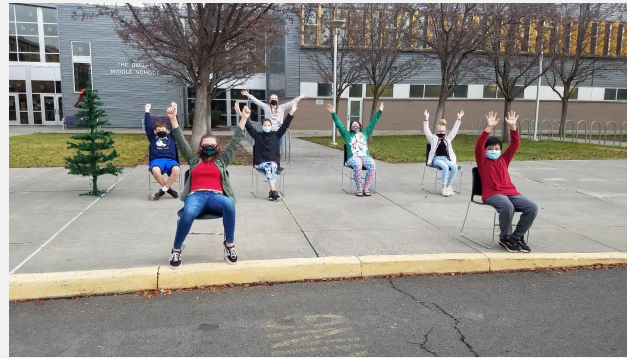
- ❖ **Students will rotate in grade level cohorts through four core classes and two elective classes**
- ❖ **Each day, students will go to PRIDE Homeroom for Care and Connection, Organization, and Homework support**
- ❖ **Students will engage in a Social Emotional Lesson every week through the 2nd Steps Middle School Program**



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Classes at The Dalles Middle School con't

- ❖ Outdoor learning and outside lunch recess will support mask breaks for all students, 3 foot distancing monitored.
- ❖ PE classes will change in the locker room and conduct classes outside as much as possible





D21 2021/2022 Back to School Plan

Goal: Return to as normal of a school life as possible.

“Wear your mask...get to class.”

- **August 30th 9th Grade Only / August 31st 9-12th grade**
- **Establish Routines and Structure and Consistency**
- **Provide Support for Social Emotional Learning / Mental Health**
- **Caring and connecting with our students**
- **Safe fun as much as possible - ASB activities**
- **Provide support for learning recovery - TAT**
- **Same bell schedule every day with 100% increase in Teacher Access Time (TAT) for students**



D21 2021/2022 Back to School Plan

A Day in the Life of a High School Student

- 8 am start time, 70-minute classes, 2:45 dismissal to TAT
- Mask while indoors. 3 feet apart to the greatest extent possible during classes.
- Mask optional when outdoors. Mask breaks available throughout the day.
- Breakfast and Lunch will be grab and go - Eating outside, hallways or classrooms.
- Teachers encouraged to do outdoor learning activities
- Weekly meetings with NCPH, updates communicated to stakeholders.



D21 2021/2022 Back to School Plan

Athletics Updates

Goal: Return athletics to normal operation as much as possible.

- Regular travel schedule, regular season, fans admitted.
- Masks for indoor sports until further notice.
- All fans will be masked indoors.
- Screening, sign-in at practices for players.
- Other simple safety measures in place such as not sharing water bottles, wiping down equipment, etc.
- AD's in continuous communication with each other.
- Weekly meetings with NCPH, updates communicated to stakeholders through multiple channels.



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Student Services Department Highlights

Individualized COVID-19 Recovery Services (OAR 581-015-2228)

- IEP teams will meet to consider the needs of **all** special education students as they return to the classroom
- Teams will review data including
 - Pre-COVID performance
 - Student participation and performance during COVID-19 closures
 - Performance upon return to school
 - Progress compared to all students during this time period
- Teams will then determine what, if any, additional services are needed to remedy the *unfinished learning* due to COVID-19



D21 2021/2022 Back to School Plan (Draft)

A Day in the Life of safely transporting students:

Communication:

- Letters to parents - sent out to all families/households within our district
- Banner's on buses -



Welcome Back

North Wasco County
School District #21

Please go to the website below to view bus route information



Welcome to
Infofinder i



www.infofinder.com



Bienvenidos de Nuevo

Distrito Escolar #21 del
Condado de North Wasco

Por favor visite el sitio web para información de las
rutas de autobuses



Welcome to
Infofinder i



www.infofinder.com

Please click on the link below to view bus route information for North Wasco School District #21



<http://www.infofinder.com>





D21 2021/2022 Back to School Plan (Draft)

A Day in the Life of safely transporting students:

Mitigation measures for school buses:

- ***Students are expected to wait patiently in line at school bus stops while keeping a 3 ft distance from other students.***
- ***Students will wear a face covering while waiting in line at the school bus stops.***
- ***Students will be visually screened prior to boarding the school bus.***
- ***Students will be required to wear a face covering (mask) at all times while riding the school bus. If a student does not have a face covering the bus driver will provide a mask to the student.***
- ***Families/households will be assigned seats & required to sit together on the school bus.***
- ***Contact tracing sheets will be kept for all routes.***
- ***Ventilation per CDC recommendations - Windows and roof vents open when feasible.***
- ***After A.M. routes drivers will clean high touch points on the bus along with electrostatic cleaning of all buses after P.M. routes.***





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Nutrition Department Highlights

This school year we will operate the Seamless Summer Option (SSO)

- **All meals will still be served at no charge to students**
- SSO maintains the nutrition standards of the standard school meal programs
- Strong emphasis on providing fruits and vegetables, fluid milk, whole grains within sensible calorie levels

Hot Meals provided for Breakfast and Lunch, we are excited to be back in the cafeteria.

Looking forward to continuing our goals of helping to eliminate plastic waste and cutting down on food waste with compost programs in each school.

Continued partnership with the Food Bank and food box distributions.

Supply Chain

We have simplified our menus for the first 3 weeks of service to help prevent disruptions in meal patterns. Thus far we have had minimum shortages however delivery of products are still challenging.





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Operations Department Update

Training

Facilities will be conducting refresher training on August 25th with the custodial and maintenance teams. In this training we will be reviewing the latest Covid cleaning and disinfecting information and setting the cleaning expectations with our team. We will also be retraining in the use of electrostatic sprayers.

What will custodial services look like?

The day shift custodian's focus shall consist of routinely patrolling the bathrooms, hallways, lobbies, while disinfecting those areas as well as all high touch points as they travel. This will include wiping down doors, windows, door handles, counters, handrails etc.

Night Crews will be cleaning and disinfecting all classrooms, offices, foyers, stairwells, bathrooms, gym etc. They are responsible for trash removal as well. Night crews will be wiping down tabletops, flat surfaces using the Peroxide multi-surface cleaner. The night crew will be vacuuming all carpets nightly.

Supplies

The district is well stocked on sanitation supplies such as hand soap, hand sanitizer, gloves, masks, disinfectants, bags, paper products and other sanitation needs.





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Shared Responsibility

Everyone in our community shares in the responsibility to keep our communities safe and healthy. This responsibility asks each person to both maintain their own health as well as respect the individual decisions of others regarding their own health and safety.

It is expected that persons exhibiting COVID like symptoms should NOT enter any of our facilities.

This mutual respect shown by adults in our community provides a powerful example to our children in our community.