



Sheridan Community Schools 2020-2021 Reopening Plans

Our hope is to return to some sense of normalcy with the opening of school in August, but at the same time we understand that things are still not “normal.” We are eager to return to school in order to help families and because of our mission as an educational institution.

We are presenting our reopening plan to families, knowing that the situation is still fluid and plans could change between now and opening day. Further, we also know that when we begin in person classes, there is a possibility that based on cases and state and local guidance, we may need to move back and forth between in person and virtual learning.

We recognize that for some families virtual learning is needed because of students or family members who are high risk for developing COVID-19 or for other personal reasons. Therefore, we are offering a virtual option.

Our reopening plan outlines strategies to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, knowing that it is impossible to eliminate the spread of the highly contagious virus. It is also important to keep in mind that many of our staff members are more at risk than children. Further, as a public institution, we are obligated to follow the guidance from national, state, and local officials.

We want to continue to support families through this challenging time. A document is attached with FAQ for parents, which was recently released information for parents about COVID-19.

Below in alphabetical order are the elements of our reopening plan, giving families a traditional option and a virtual option.

When you have decided if your family will opt for traditional or virtual learning, please complete this important survey, so that we can begin detailed planning by knowing how many students will be virtual and how many on campus. Click [HERE](#) for survey.

Virtual Option		
Virtual Option	Parents may opt for a virtual learning option for their children if their children or someone in their household is a high risk for developing COVID-19, or if they think it is the best option for their children. The exact format of virtual learning will depend on the number of families who choose this option. We understand that we need to provide adequate supports for students who opt for an online learning platform.	We trust parents to make the best decisions for their children, so we want to provide a virtual option to all families.
Traditional School Option		
Accommodation	Details	Rationale
Athletics	There are detailed procedures outlined by our athletic department for athletic activities, which is attached as a PDF document.	We are following the guidance from the Indiana High School Athletic Association and other organizations to put practices in place to reduce the potential spread of COVID-19 among participants in our athletic programs.
Band/Choir	Our band, choir, and elementary music teachers are working on plans that will allow for instruction that falls within guidelines of social distancing.	Experts advise that band and choir members are particularly vulnerable to infection from airborne particles, because they exhale and inhale deeply, making social distancing and/or masks very important.
Blackhawk Care	Blackhawk Care will be in operation with some variations to promote social distancing.	We understand how essential childcare is to working families and want to do our best to provide supports for families.

Calendar	The approved 2020-2021 school calendar is in place at this time.	We recognize that circumstances may warrant a change to the school calendar, but at this time no changes are being proposed.
Disinfecting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily Cleaning - Custodial staff will work during each school day to support the learning environment. • Enhanced Cleaning - Custodial staff will work between student cohorts to clean an EPA approved disinfectant all high-touch surfaces throughout the school. • Disinfectant Cleaning - In the event of a COVID-19 confirmed positive, our staff will initiate an intense cleaning and disinfecting of identified areas. • We are working with our suppliers to insure we have disinfectant products that are safe for students, while also killing the COVID-19 virus. 	Reducing the risk of exposure to COVID-19 by cleaning and disinfection is an important part reducing the spread of the virus. The virus that causes COVID-19 can be killed through the use the effective products.
COVID-19 Diagnosis	If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, we will work with the Hamilton County Health Department to determine what sections and for how long classes will move to eLearning.	This is the direction we are being given by the Hamilton County Health Department and the Indiana Department of Education.
Education on COVID-19	Teachers and staff will be trained on the signs, symptoms, and protection protocol of COVID-19 prior to school starting. Educational material will be sent to students prior to the first day of school, with a review on first day of signs and symptoms and how not to spread COVID-19.	As an educational institution, we understand the value of education. We want to provide students with information to help them make decisions that will protect them, as well as their classmates and teachers.
Entry and dismissal locations and timing	Each building will be reconfiguring entrance and exit procedures to increase social distancing. More information may be provided to families if we need to slightly stagger entry times to promote social distancing.	According to the CDC, limiting face-to-face contact with others is the best way to reduce the spread of coronavirus disease.

Hand sanitizer and hand washing	Extra time will be provided for frequent hand washing. Hand sanitizer will be available and plentiful, and students will be prompted to use it.	The best defense for preventing the spread of the virus is frequent and proper hand washing and/or use of hand sanitizer.
Lunch and breakfast	Meals will be served in a manner that supports social distancing. This will include reducing the number of students eating together and possibly serving meals in classrooms. Silverware will be prepacked and disposable, and no self-serve items will be used.	We want to promote social distancing while at the same time insuring students have continued access to healthy meals each day.
Mask use	At times when social distancing cannot be maintained, and students and staff members will need to wear masks. Masks will be utilized on school buses, in hallways, and in other instances at the discretion of teachers. SCS will make masks available for students who do not have access to masks from their families.	The purpose of masks is to protect others, and the CDC recommends the use of masks when social distancing is not possible. Our goal is to promote social distancing and use masks on a limited basis. (See CDC Mask guidelines, which are attached as a PDF.)
Material use	To avoid cross contamination, students will be assigned materials that are not shared.	The CDC discourages sharing of items that are difficult to clean or disinfect and suggests to keep each child's belongings separated from others' and in individually labeled containers, cubbies, or areas.
Playground	Elementary students will have recess on the playground, but in smaller groups than usual. Students will wash their hands (or use hand sanitizer) before and after recess.	Guidance encourages time spent outdoors because the virus is less likely to spread outdoors.
Screening	Student and staff temperatures will be taken daily at school. In addition, parents will be asked to do daily screening for signs and symptoms. Students with temperatures of over 100 degrees F will be discretely referred to the nurse. Screening at home each day is strongly encouraged.	Since fever is a symptom of COVID-19, it is important to ensure that staff and students are fever-free.

<p>Social distancing and masks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We will work to set up spaces and class schedules to promote social distancing. ● Desks in classrooms will be facing forward and spread apart as much as possible so that masks will not be required while students are seated at their desks. ● Students will have assigned seats. ● When social distancing is not possible, such as buses and passing periods, students will be asked to wear masks. ● Desks will be cleaned and disinfected daily or before and after the use by different students. 	<p>CDC guidance suggests that social distancing or face masks are beneficial in decreasing the spread of the virus. (Click here CDC information on social.)</p>
<p>Staying home when sick</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We will educate students and staff about the importance of staying home when sick. ● Students and staff must be fever free for 72 hours to return to school. ● If a student or staff member has other potential COVID-19 symptoms, in addition to fever, they will stay home for 10 days. ● Contact should be made with the school nurse to provide documentation and follow-up. 	<p>This is an important defense of the spread of the virus, and we have been advised by the state and Hamilton County Health Department to require 72 hours fever free, and additional quarantine time if other symptoms are present.</p>
<p>Traffic Patterns</p>	<p>Traffic patterns will be carefully designed in each building to promote social distancing. This may include strategies such as some one-way hallways, etc.</p>	<p>According to the CDC, limiting face-to-face contact with others is the best way to reduce the spread of coronavirus disease.</p>

<p>Transportation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Parents will be encouraged to transport their children to help with capacity, but bus transportation will be available. ● A survey will be conducted to determine number of active riders. ● Appropriate signage and seat markings will be placed on each bus. ● Students will be seated with family members when possible and have assigned seats. ● Air flow throughout the bus will be increased by opening roof hatches and selected windows when weather permits. ● Drivers will disinfect handrails, seat tops, and entrance doors between runs with an EPA approved disinfectant. ● Nightly disinfecting of buses will be performed. ● Students will use hand sanitizer when they enter and exit the bus. 	<p>Guidance suggests that the virus is spread in areas where there is extended contact (more than 15 minutes) in a close space. Because buses fall within that category, we will do all we can to social distance on buses, and also ask students to wear masks. In addition, we will have the windows down on buses to increase ventilation.</p>
<p>Water availability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Water will be available to students through water filling stations, with water fountains being closed. ● Students are invited to bring water bottles to school for personal use. 	<p>Public health officials recommend not using water fountains because of potential to spread virus. It is important to have water available for students, and we will ensure that they do.</p>

Ventilation	We will follow air quality guidelines from the CDC, including opening windows, utilizing air conditioning, increasing humidity, and keeping blinds open. In addition, filters will be changed frequently.	Sunlight reduces the survival of many viruses. In addition, sunlight has other positive health benefits. Weather and safety permitting, opening windows is the easiest way to delivery outside air directly to a room. This increases the total air change rate thereby decreasing the time viral particles are in the air. According to the CDC a relative humidity rate above 40% has been shown to decrease the survival of coronaviruses. Facilities that can centrally control humidity should target a rate between 40 – 60%. (See CDC Environmental Guidance, which is attached as a PDF.)
Visitors	Visitors will not be allowed into the buildings, except for special circumstances.	Although we value community and parent involvement, we feel like limiting visitors is a way to reduce face to face contact for students and staff.
<p>We need to gather data on which students opt for in-person and which choose virtual learning, so that we can create detailed staffing plans. Please click HERE for the survey link.</p> <p>Thank you for your understanding and patience. We will continue to communicate.</p>		