

COVID-19 UPDATES

August 12, 2020

Reopening Plan

The Board of Education has approved the In-Person scenario and all students will be back in the building full time following our approved 2020-21 school calendar. The decision was based on survey results in which 85% of families and 85% of staff members were in favor of this scenario. We also have approval from the Portage County Health and Human Services Department as their officials have been instrumental in the creation of our reopening plan. The plan may be found at: <https://www.abschools.k12.wi.us/cms/lib/WI02215806/Centricity/Domain/2133/2020-8-3%20Updated%20Reopening%20Plan.pdf>

We realize school districts in the area have different plans for reopening. Each district needs to take into consideration the covid-19 situation in their district and their unique ability to implement proper precautions and protocols. We are fortunate the situation for our district allows us to return to full time school in our building.

Open House

Our traditional Open House has been cancelled. We are being advised to eliminate large group events in our building at least for a while once school starts. We will have a virtual Open House format on our website. Each teacher will have a link and share an introduction and summary of expectations. This should be available the end of August. Ms. Shelby Weber is leading this initiative. Thank you, Ms. Weber!

Students will not be bringing in their supplies early with the cancellation of Open House in school so staff members will be available the first day of school to help young children with carrying supplies. You may also send supplies with them over a few days to lighten the load.

Concerns/Questions

Will students share supplies? No, students will not be sharing supplies. Please label supplies with your child's name. Any school equipment, materials, toys, etc. being shared will be cleaned on a regular basis between usages.

Will students' temperatures be taken on the bus and/or in school? No, we will be sending home a self-screening tool for families to use to determine whether or not a child should attend school or stay home. The screener is for home use only. It does not need to be completed or sent in to school.

Will students need to wear a face covering? Yes, Governor Ever's latest Emergency Order #1 mandates face coverings be worn by individuals 5 years old and older to include schools. They will not have to be worn outside. A form is available for parents to sign if a child is exempt from wearing a face covering. Physician documentation is not required, but the form with the parent signature is required to be on file in the Main Office. It should be given to Mrs. Sandy Barden.

Will parents be able to walk children into school? Yes, we are now going to allow parents of young children to walk them to class. Parents will need to wear a face covering and limit their visit to 5-10 minutes. This has been changed from a previous update. The face covering mandate will make this safe for us to allow.

Will students use lockers? Yes, students will be allowed to use their lockers. Middle school students will stay in one classroom for core classes and teachers will move to minimize the need to go to lockers. Middle school students will be moving to exploratory classes and specials classes. Their time will be limited to 3 minutes at their lockers. High school students will use their lockers, but be limited to 3 minutes. Contact, for tracing purposes, is considered within 6 ft. for more than 15 minutes without a face covering so we will be well below this timeframe.

Will we need to close one day per week for deep cleaning? No, our plan is to have students in the building full time 5 days per week. Staff members have completed training on an approved, recommended cleaning protocol that will be put in place every day.

When will the schedules come out for students in the virtual option? Schedules will come out when teachers return. Students will be assigned times to login so they can view direct instruction. These times will vary from teacher to teacher, but will not overlap.

Please contact Dr. Boileau at (715) 366-2941 ext. 418 or at pboileau@abschools.k12.wi.us if you have any other questions.

The situation is constantly evolving and we will work to keep you updated.

Thank you.