



# Return to School Update

August 5, 2020

Dragon Families,

As the beginning of the school year draws near, I am constantly re-evaluating our safety protocols to welcome students and staff back into the building on August 24<sup>th</sup>. We all recognize that school reopening guidance changes frequently and will continue to do so as students come back to school. With that said, I have recently met with the district administration team to define new expectations being added to our reopening plans to ensure higher levels of safety for all students and staff.

This document is focused on face covering requirements, temperature checks, along with other items. I recognize that face coverings are a contentious issue across the nation, however, implementing face covering requirements will most certainly have an impact on how long the district is able to stay open as we welcome our students back. I ask that each of us put our own political views on this matter aside, and work as a team to implement strategies that help us keep our doors open. I truly do not want these requirements to divide us, but rather unite us for the common good of educating the amazing students of Mid-Buchanan.

## **\*FACE COVERING REQUIREMENTS FOR 2020-21\***

**STUDENTS:** Students K-12 will be required to have a face covering during the following times. We ask that parents provide their child with a face covering for school. We will have disposable face coverings in the event a child forgets his/hers on any given day.

- In hallways, while lined up for restroom breaks, while lined up for breakfast/lunch, locker rooms, and in the restroom.
- Students will be expected to wear a face covering in the classroom only when social distancing expectations are not possible.
- While riding the bus. We also ask that siblings sit together while on the bus each day.
- We will do our best to provide as much time without face coverings as possible each day.
- **We have ordered a large amount of clear desk dividers that we are hopeful will allow us the ability to reduce face covering restrictions while students are in the classrooms. However, these dividers will most likely not be on-site until shortly after school starts.**

**STAFF:** All staff members will be required to wear a face covering during the following times:

- Inside the building when social distancing is not possible.
- When working with students one-on-one or in small groups.
- When a teacher is providing full group, direct instruction a face covering will not be required as long as social distancing expectations can be met.
- Teachers will also be able to utilize a clear desk divider on their own desk if they would like to create more separation.

## **\*TEMPERATURE CHECKS FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF\***

All students and staff will be required to get their temperature checked each morning. A team of staff members will be positioned at the primary entrances each morning to check students. We will be asking staff members to report to their respective building office for a temperature check each morning prior to starting their first class. A temperature of 100.0 degrees or higher will prompt sending the student or staff member home. A student with a temperature of 100.0 degrees or higher will be isolated in the Nurse's Office and a parent will be notified immediately.

## **\*BREAKFAST/LUNCH\***

Breakfast each morning will be conducted in a 'Grab N' Go' fashion. Lunch shifts will start the year by spreading students out through rotations that will encompass some students eating in the cafeteria while others are eating in classrooms. Again, this will be done on a rotation basis.

## **\*VISITORS\***

The district will be starting the school year with no visitors. All parent meetings will be handled virtually if at all possible. If a parent does need to come on-site for a meeting, we ask that they please check in at the office for a temperature check and wear a face covering while in the building.

## **\*OPEN HOUSE AND 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE MEETING\***

Open House Information:

August 19<sup>th</sup> for Grades 1, 3, and 5:

Last name A - L: 5:00 - 6:00

Last name M - Z: 6:00 - 7:00

August 20<sup>th</sup> for Grades 2, 4, and 6

Last name A - L: 5:00 - 6:00

Last name M - Z: 6:00 - 7:00

**\*Limiting it to one parent.**

**\*Social distancing as much as possible.**

**\*Face coverings will be required for parent, student, and teacher.**

7<sup>th</sup> Grade Meeting:

The Ice Cream Social and Orientation for incoming 7th grade students will still proceed as planned on August 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Only ONE parent/guardian may come per student and face coverings will be required for the duration of the event. Ice cream treats will be given to guests to go, as opposed to staying on-site to eat ice-cream as previously planned.

## **\*HYBRID LEARNING OPTION\***

The district is now in the process of developing a hybrid learning option. Again, developing a hybrid option may very well also allow us to keep our doors open longer as we move into the fall. Please note that a hybrid option will not be a "one size fits all" option, but rather a plan that focuses on the needs of specific grade spans and our highest need students. More information regarding the hybrid option will be coming out soon.

***I recognize these new requirements to start the 2020-21 school year may cause frustration for some but peace of mind for others. I believe we all share the concern that it could just be a matter of time before a hybrid or fully virtual model must be implemented. Please support us by recognizing these new measures are designed to help us keep the doors open for our students for as long as possible. I appreciate your patience and support as we prepare to kick off the new school year.***

## **\*PROTOCOLS FOR STUDENTS/STAFF WITH POSSIBLE SYMPTOMS OR HAVE TESTED POSITIVE\***

The district has received questions regarding protocols for when a student or staff member may be exhibiting symptoms of Covid-19, and protocols for when there is confirmation of a positive case of a student or staff member. Below are some protocols that will be followed based upon CDC and local Health Department guidelines. This is a situation where it will be tough to define exactly what will happen in every single case as each case will be different. Overall, guidance from the local Health Department will drive how the district will address each individual situation.

### ***\*What if a student or staff member is showing symptoms of Covid-19 while at school?***

The student will be isolated immediately in the Nurse's Office. A parent will be contacted to come and pick up the child as quickly as possible. Again, we ask that each family have a contingency plan to ensure their child can be picked up as quickly as possible in the event the child needs to be sent home. We will encourage the parent to see their health care provider and consider having the child tested for Covid-19. If the health care provider does not initiate a Covid-19 test; the student will only be allowed to return to school once symptoms have subsided, typically a 72 hour wait time, or cleared to return by the health care provider.

Staff members that begin showing symptoms while at school will be sent home as quickly as possible to pursue health care guidance related to their symptoms. Return to school will be allowed once symptoms have subsided, typically a 72 hour wait time, or cleared to return by a health care provider.

### ***\*What if a student or staff member have been identified as a "close contact" or have tested positive for Covid-19?***

Once the district becomes aware of anyone being identified as a "close contact" or a positive Covid-19 case, we will immediately contact the local health department regarding the situation. The district is expected to follow recommendations regarding "close contacts" and positive cases of Covid-19. We recognize that current CDC and local health department guidance may entail the student, the staff member, or groups of students to isolate or quarantine dependent upon the specifics of the situation.

- **Close Contact:** Isolate/quarantine for up to 14 days monitoring for symptoms. Family makes contact with the local health department by calling 816-271-4636 to receive guidance. While the child is at home, the district will be able to provide virtual learning options to keep the child engaged.
- **Positive Case:** Stay home at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared AND until no fever for at least 3 days without medication AND improvement of other symptoms. Siblings and household members also stay home for 14 days. While the child(ren) is/are at home, the district will be able to provide virtual learning options to keep the child engaged.
  - Local health department officials will be in contact with the family.
  - During this time the local health department will most likely work through contact tracing scenarios and provide guidance on others that may be asked to isolate/quarantine.

Thank you for your patience and support as we update our plans to try and keep our doors open as long as possible once school starts. Again, I understand none of this is "ideal", but this is where we are in the world we live in.

Jay Albright, Superintendent

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