

**Bethel Public Schools**

Back to School Plan 2020-2021

# BETHEL PUBLIC SCHOOLS



**BETHEL HIGH SCHOOL  
RETURN TO LEARN  
HEALTH/SAFETY PLAN**

**2020-2021**

# HIGH SCHOOL ON-SITE PLAN

## FACE MASKS/SHIELDS FOR HS STUDENTS & STAFF

High school students and staff alike are reminded that by wearing a face mask at school, they are protecting both themselves and those around them. As the school year begins, students need to bring a face mask or neck gaiter to school with them daily. Bandanas WILL NOT be allowed to be used as a face covering. With respect to the spread of the virus, the optimal, safest situation is for all students and staff to wear a mask at all times. This is a responsibility we all share for the protection of our immediate family, extended family, the school family, and the greater Bethel community. For this reason, Bethel's staff and students will be required to wear masks throughout the day in accordance with our District plan. Masks may be removed while eating and during outside recess where social distancing may be maintained. Masks will fall under the Bethel High School dress code policy. Any writing or graphics that appear on a mask will be required to meet the guidelines of this policy.

## DAILY HEALTH CHECKS

Parents are urged to check their children for temperatures or symptoms each morning before they arrive at school. Students' temperatures will be taken when they arrive in class each morning. Any student with a temperature of 100.4 degrees or more will be sent to the nurse for verification of the fever. If the nurse verifies a temperature or symptoms, the student's parent will be contacted to pick them up.

## SCHOOL VISITORS

Visitors will be required to wear a mask upon entry to any site. Visitors will only be allowed to enter the office area when necessary. No access will be allowed beyond that point at any time, unless the visitor has previously scheduled an appointment with the counselor, special education director, or school administrator. Parents are highly encouraged to communicate via phone or email with the exception of emergencies.

## RESTROOMS

Restrooms' occupancy will be limited to 4 people at one time. Students waiting outside the restroom are to follow social distancing practices until their turns.

## **HAND WASHING AND HAND SANITIZER**

Frequent and thorough hand washing practices have proven to be critical in the mitigation of any virus, especially COVID-19. Staff and students are encouraged to wash their hands at every opportunity or to use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer when hand washing is not feasible. Hand sanitizer will be available in each classroom as well as at multiple other areas in the school building.

## **WATER FOUNTAINS**

Drinking directly from any of the water fountains will not be allowed. Students should bring a **CLEAR** plastic bottle with a lid to refill throughout the day. Several of the high school water fountains have a touch-less, sensor-activated bottle filler with cold water that students will have access to so that they may refill their water bottles as needed.

## **BEFORE SCHOOL ARRIVAL**

In order to limit student exposure time to a large group setting, students will be required to go to the cafeteria or directly to their 1st hour classroom when they arrive on campus. Students will not be allowed to gather in the building or outside of the building in large groups while waiting for the school day to begin.

## **PASSING PERIOD/HALLWAY**

In an effort to lessen congestion and improve traffic flow, modifications will be made to the traditional five minute passing period time between classes. Some hallways in the annex and main high school building and also transitions between the upstairs and downstairs will be designated as one way, in order to assist with the flow of students. Students will be required to report directly to their next period class with no stopping or congregating in the hallways.

## **BREAKFAST & LUNCH**

Students will be reminded to wash their hands prior to meal service. Accessible hand sanitizer dispensers will be available as well. Cafeteria staff have established procedures and seating requirements to offer students the safest environment during their time in the cafeteria. Students may remove their mask to eat once they are seated with their food. Students will be reminded that sharing food is not a safe practice. Students will be required to wear their masks indoors or outdoors unless they are eating.

## CLASSROOM ORGANIZATION

To the extent possible, classroom desks will be arranged to all face in the same direction. To facilitate the difficult challenge of social distancing in a classroom, it may be necessary to remove any extraneous furniture from the environment. Some classes may consider an occasional learning space outdoors or in a common area. High-touch surfaces like door handles and light switches should be cleaned frequently throughout the day. Student desktops should also be wiped with a sanitizer wipe or other appropriate cleanser between classes.

## STUDENT SUPPLIES

When students share supplies, such as pens, art materials, and calculators, they are also sharing their germs. For this reason, we are asking students to **come to school fully prepared** with the materials they will need and to avoid sharing the materials. Teachers will not be able to provide shared supplies at this time. Materials will be carried to each class in a **smaller type backpack**, so materials can be used by that student in multiple classes. For example, one set of colored pencils would be with the student and could be used in both art and geography. If a student is unable to provide an item due to its expense, the school will make every effort to seek funds or materials to support the child.

## LOCKER USE

Students at the High School will not be assigned a locker for the 2020-2021 school year. If a student has a special circumstance or need that will require the student to have a locker to assist them, the student or parent should contact the school to discuss this need.

## MEDIA CENTER

Honoring the importance of reading for both pleasure and research, the school library media center will remain open for student use. While there may be some changes in routines and scheduling, it is our intent to keep the media center open and available to our students and staff. Students will be allowed to check out books. As books are returned, they will be sanitized prior to being placed back on the shelves for checkout again.

## **SCHOOL ACTIVITIES**

Extracurricular activities and athletics of all descriptions are vital elements of a secondary student's experience. Responses to COVID-19 in these environments will vary as OSSAA guidelines are followed to allow students to participate in the safest manner possible. Off-campus field trips will be limited at this time. Any coach, sponsor, staff member, or student being transported to a school sponsored activity will be required to wear a mask the entire time that they are in the vehicle.

## **SCHOOLWIDE ASSEMBLIES**

Schoolwide assemblies will be limited at the beginning of the school year to avoid the likely possibility of exposure that could occur. Outdoor gatherings may be a suitable and safer alternative. As the year wears on, such events may be reinstated if the risk is diminished.