

# BETHEL PUBLIC SCHOOLS



MIDDLE SCHOOL  
RETURN TO LEARN  
ON-SITE PLAN

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2020-2021

# MIDDLE SCHOOL ON-SITE PLAN

## FACE MASKS/SHIELDS FOR MS STUDENTS & STAFF

Middle 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 include a minimum of **two** face masks on their list of school supplies. 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.

## DAILY HEALTH CHECKS

Parents are urged to check their child for a temperature 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, including classrooms and cafeteria. Parents are highly encouraged to communicate via phone or email with the exception of emergencies.

## HAND WASHING AND HAND SANITIZER

Frequent and thorough handwashing 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.

## **BATHROOMS**

South bathrooms will be limited to 7 people at a time (4 stalls, 2 sinks, and 1 waiting). North bathrooms will be limited to 8 people at a time (4 stalls, 3 sinks, and 1 waiting). Efforts should be made to maintain social distance while waiting to enter.

## **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. Each of the middle school water fountains has a touchless, sensor-activated bottle filler with cold water.

## **ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL**

Arrival routines may look different this year in an effort to allow students to maintain the safest possible distance from one another before school and during dismissal at the end of the day. At the end of the day as much as possible, students will be released in a staggered manner to avoid all of them traveling through the halls toward the same exit. Student supervision will be imperative during these gathering times as students come and go each day.

## **BREAKFAST & LUNCH**

Students will be reminded to access lavatories for hand washing prior to meal service. Accessible hand sanitizer dispensers will be available as well. Because mealtime, by its very nature, presents many opportunities for the spread of germs, we are currently exploring ways to offer students a variety of seating options to provide safer situations than only the typical cafeteria setting would allow. For example, middle school students who bring their lunch are encouraged to eat outside on the playground, weather permitting. 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.

## **RECESS**

Students may remove their masks during outside recess when proper social distancing can be maintained. In an effort to lessen congestion after recess, 8th graders will re-enter the building through the north door, 7th graders through the south door, and 6th graders through the east door. Masks must be put back on upon entering the building. Students are encouraged to use hand sanitizer or wash their hands after recess.

## **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. Expectations for individual student materials should always be assigned with the cost in mind.

## **LOCKER USE**

Middle school students will be assigned a school locker, but it will not be utilized in our “normal” way. **Students will need a smaller type backpack** to carry their supplies from class to class. Daily locker visits to store and pick up materials will be limited in a manner that reduces the number of students in a hallway area at any one time. At every opportunity, we will be seeking ways to minimize unnecessary material and items being brought into the school. **Locker decorations should not be brought to school this year.** If possible, smaller athletics bags and jackets may be stored in lockers to minimize contact with other bags and outerwear.

## **HALLWAYS**

In an effort to lessen congestion in the hallway and improve traffic flow, students will not use their lockers between classes. This should enable students to more easily switch between classes. Students should stay to their right while walking down the hallways. This will enable there to be two lines of students going each direction while maintaining a space in the center where students will be facing each other. Careful consideration should be given in high traffic areas around bathrooms and water fountains.

## **VOCAL MUSIC, BAND, PE CLASSES**

Because vocal, band, and PE are likely to involve high volumes of oral expectorant, there is a strong likelihood that aerosol distribution of COVID-19 will occur in these courses' classrooms. Mitigation techniques, such as cloth masks, distancing, and outdoor classrooms, are all possibilities that are presently being considered. At this point, there are no absolutes, and much can change in the weeks and months to come. Your patience is kindly appreciated!

## **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.

## **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.