

Fort Towson Public School

2021 – 2022 Safe Return to Learn Plan



Introduction:

In an effort to continue the on-going battle with COVID-19 and to help in keeping our students and staff safe, but at the same time provide our students the best quality education we can, the following Safe Return to Learn plan has been developed by our administrative team and members of our plan development committee. This Safe Return to Learn plan was something we took very seriously and we wanted to provide everyone with something we felt confident with. Now of course, as it has been with our battle with COVID-19, things can change in an instant but I feel this plan will help us get back on a path to some semblance of normalcy. Our main objective as always is to provide our students the best education that we can and to keep them safe. Please take time to review this document and provide us with any feedback.

Watch for Symptoms:

We are asking you as parents/guardians to do a wellness check daily on your student before sending them to school, if they show any signs or symptoms keep them home. The goal is to keep everyone safe and in school, in order to achieve this, we will have to be proactive on keeping any one sick isolated from others. In the event that we have a positive case of COVID-19, the district will immediately conduct a contact tracing investigation and quarantine all individuals who we determine were directly exposed. Administration will monitor the situation and make any further decisions regarding quarantines when warranted. Every day the campus buildings will be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized.

The district will be notifying parents when we learn of a positive case and we will take precautions to keep students separated for the rest of the day. In this event, parents will have a choice of coming to pick their student up immediately or let them finish the school day.

Health Check:

The wearing of masks will be optional but encouraged. Staff members who have not been vaccinated and are within close proximity of students and other staff; will be strongly encouraged to wear a face covering. The safest situation to prevent viral spread is for all students and staff to wear face coverings over their mouth and noses at all times, except when eating, drinking, or where they can safely social distance. Students will be reminded that by wearing a face covering at school, they are protecting both themselves and those around them.

Academics:

We will start school on August 16, 2021. There will be two options available for our students, the first option being traditional in-person attendance four days a week, for those students that want to attend school. The second option is for those families that still prefer to enroll students in at-home/remote learning environments, this allows students from ANY grade level to remain a Fort Towson student and receive instruction from our own highly qualified teachers. Enrollment in the remote learning program will be a commitment for a semester, with the option to change at the end of the semester. There will be a contract for the parents to sign to enroll your child in remote learning.

Remote learners will have to check in daily, as attendance will be taken. The grading systems will be the same for all students whether they attend in school or remote learning. The students and teachers will still use as a supplemental tool and as an enrichment curriculum Acellus during virtual Fridays. Those students choosing to use remote learning will predominately be using Acellus.

Internet/Devices:

Only those students who have access to an electronic device and internet at home will be allowed to receive instruction by remote learning. In the event your child/children are placed on quarantine but do not have access to technology in order to log on for remote learning, packets will be provided for those students to be picked up and brought back by someone not under quarantine. These packets will have everything for that student that the others will be doing, so that no one falls behind. Teachers will prepare quality packets with the lessons that match the academics for in school and remote learning students.

Arrival & Dismissal:

As elementary students arrive in the morning, they will report to the cafeteria to begin their day. We ask that parents not escort their children into the building, except for Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten students. Everyone will be encouraged to wear facial coverings to and from all buildings and classrooms. All students who being picked up or who are walking will go to the cafeteria for supervised release starting at 4:00.

Attendance:

We do not want students to come to school sick, to protect everyone and keep our school open. With the new learning techniques, students will be able to stay on track from home, so no fear of falling behind.

Social Distancing:

While it will be difficult to maintain distance between the students at all times, we will make every effort to protect them. The elementary students will be self-contained and only exposed to a small group of students/individuals. The Jr. High will also be self-contained for safety and the High School students will be self-contained as much as possible, with exclusions for sports and electives.

Breakfast & Lunch:

Students will wash hands or use hand sanitizer prior to eating and will be encouraged to wear masks to and from the cafeteria. As much as possible, students will have proper 6' social distancing.

Recess:

Elementary students will have a daily recess time and mask may be removed while outside. There will be schedules to allow daily outdoor playtime, while maintaining limited exposure. The schedules will vary in order to limit the number of students in any one area at a time. Students returning from recess must wash their hands or use sanitizer.

Cleaning/PPE:

We have purchased protective facial coverings, cleaning supplies, thermometers and sanitizer stations to protect everyone during this time. Students are encouraged to wear their own mask, however if they do not have one we will provide one.

For the safety of students, we encourage your students to bring bottled water or a refillable jug. Touchless water fillable stations are in place.

School Activities:

All school activities will continue following safety guidelines and will continue unless we have an exposure that forces an entire team to be under quarantine. In the event the entire district must close due to wide spread exposure, during the quarantine period all school activities will be canceled.

School Buses:

School buses will continue to run routes because we know this is a needed service for our families. It is impossible to properly social distance on the buses for an obvious lack of space. Students are encouraged to board wearing face covering or wear one provided by the driver. Coverings are encouraged to be kept on throughout the route and as students exit the bus and enter the school. Since transportation is an optional courtesy offered by each school district, parents can choose whether or not to utilize this service. If you have concerns, we encourage you to drive your students.

Conclusion:

Again, this document is to serve as a guide as we prepare to “Safely Return to Learn” in our community. As always, if you have any questions please, contact your child’s campus principal or myself. We are here for you and want everyone to feel good about the direction we are headed.

Respectfully,

Phillip Hall, Superintendent
Fort Towson Public Schools
“Together We Can Succeed