

Cave Springs Public School Safe Return Plan 2021-2022

We are very happy that you have chosen Cave Springs Public School to serve the educational needs of your children. Like you, we look forward to starting back to school. Because of the ongoing health related issues that this pandemic has created, we want to clarify what our district plans are to support all students in a safe and healthy manner as they attain their education.

Our students' health and safety are our top priority. Cave Springs Public Schools will coordinate with State and local health officials as well as collaborate through contact tracing with State, local, and Tribal health departments. Cave Springs will also support our school community by providing vaccination support and resources. Regular updates will be made to this plan based on information provided by the CDC and applicable federal, state, and local agencies.

Cave Springs Public School will follow the Oklahoma Department of Health (ODH) Guidelines and Return to Learn Oklahoma Framework provided by the Oklahoma State Department of Education in planning for reopening in the fall. We hope the following information will answer the questions you may have.

Our district will offer two different educational pathways to meet the educational services for the 2021-2022 school year.

- 1) Traditional Learning
- 2) Virtual Learning

Traditional Learning - Offered to students Pre-K – 12th grades who will be on campus attending school at Cave Springs Public School facilities. Students would attend as usual with precautions to limit exposure to the COVID-19 virus. These precautions will be outlined in the next pages of this document.

Traditional Classroom will consist of a hybrid learning approach - Students Pre-K – 12th will be enrolled in classes as students within the traditional school setting and follow the lesson plans of their teacher or teachers. Teachers will be incorporating technology into the classroom using GOOGLE CLASSROOM, Edmentum, Study Island, IXL and other evidenced based programs.

In the event that we have a temporary outage or if a student is sent home for fever or COVID-19 symptoms, students will participate in distance learning activities provided by the teacher. A daily attendance check-in form will be kept by the student's teacher(s) and as long as assignments are completed satisfactorily and on time, absences will not be counted against the students.

Virtual Learning – Offered to students P K – 12th grades and would be off campus using Edmentum a complete online program separate from the regular classroom. This is a self-paced curriculum for students choosing this option.

- Students or parents interested in this option should call and set up an appointment to meet with the Principal and Virtual Learning teacher. This meeting will be an intake meeting to review the process and procedures and determine if this option is best for the student. Any student enrolled in the Virtual approach will be allowed to participate in extra-curricular activities as long as student is present one class period during the school day.

Students **will not** be able to go from in-person to virtual during the middle of a semester without extenuating circumstances.

Remote learning days - Determined by the district city or state in the event of an outbreak.

- Can be utilized by individual families in the event of a student or family member exposure or illness resulting in quarantine.
- Counts as a school day, not a traditional absence, if student completes online lessons or distance learning curriculum within the allotted time.
- Students continue to learn new material with teacher support.
- Opportunities for students to collaborate and learn by interacting virtually with peers/teachers, may include pre-recorded or live lesson tutorials.
- Regular support and contact from Cave Springs teachers until on-campus class can resume.

Connectivity / Internet access

Students who have limited or no Internet access will be assigned a hot spot that will be checked out to them for connectivity free of charge (hotspots may not work in all areas). If connectivity is not possible, students will be provided with distance learning packets. All school policies will be in effect in regards to the use of computer and hotspot devices and students will be required to only use the device for educational services directly related to Cave Springs Public School. The hotspot device is equipped with content filtering apps that will notify the proper authorities if used in an inappropriate manner. If lost or stolen, students/parents will be responsible for the replacement of the device as well as all monthly fees.

COVID-19 GUIDELINES

COVID – 19 stands for “coronavirus disease 2019.” It is caused by a virus called SARS – CoV2. This is the virus that has spread and continues to spread around the world. It is important that we review the following with you as we discuss our districts plans for opening school and remaining open.

It is essential for Cave Springs School and the community to work together to prevent the introduction and spread of COVID-19 in the school environment and in the community while still providing a quality education program.

State statute gives public school districts the authority to exclude students who have a contagious disease such as COVID-19 or who are liable to transmit the disease after having been exposed to it. See *OAC 310:520-1-3*.

In addition, the local health department has the authority to exclude students from school and may order students and others to isolate or quarantine. *OAC 310:520-1-3*. Cave Springs School will work closely with the local health department and Cherokee Nation Health Services to make these determinations.

First Day of School:

School will begin on August 11, 2021 as planned. Masks will not be required as long as county numbers stay at or below the yellow level. If numbers should rise to orange or red levels, masks wearing will be made mandatory and the following guidelines will go into effect. Plan will be updated as needed or every 6 months.

Face covering requirements (when required):

Currently, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Oklahoma Department of Health (ODH) is recommending all individuals 10 years old and over wear a face covering. We are strongly recommending that adults and students age 10 and up wear face coverings when physical distancing cannot be achieved particularly on school buses. The ODH has not issued a directive to require face covering; however, this does not downplay the importance of this additional safety measure. Students under 10 years of age and those with health issues and special needs will not be asked to wear face coverings. Students will be highly encouraged to wear face coverings in areas with a high concentration of students where social distancing cannot be maintained. In the event we have an increase in the number of positive cases, face coverings could be required. Parent and guests will be required to wear a mask upon entering the building.

How to wear your mask correctly:

- Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer before putting on your mask.
- Put the mask over your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin.
- Fit the mask snugly against the sides of your face, slipping the loops over your ears or tying the strings behind your head.
- If you have to continually adjust your mask, it doesn't fit properly, and you might need to find a different mask type or brand.
- Make sure you can breathe easily.

Masks:

The district will provide one mask for every student, additional masks will be available for purchase in the office as supplies allow.

Transportation:

The district will provide bus transportation for all students. Based on current ODH guidance, everyone will be required to wear face coverings when riding the bus. We are planning no changes to bus schedules or bus stops.

School Day:

Arrival and dismissal times will be the same unless guidance from the OHD recommends otherwise. Our goal is for your student(s) to have as normal of a school day as possible while we also provide as much safety as possible. When students arrive at school, either by bus or parent, they will have a temperature screening before when entering the building. Upon completing the screening, students will proceed to their designated area. All students and faculty will be screened daily. Students will not remain in the same classroom all day but will be able to transition from one class to another, following social distancing as much as possible. Sanitation will take place before a new group of students enter a space, with each desk and chair being sanitized.

Students will participate in extra curricular activities and sporting events will be held according to OSSAA and ODH recommendations.

Students will attend school daily following the normal schedule pre-COVID

Lunchtimes will be staggered so students will be able to eat in cafeteria and still safely distance. Water filling stations will be available and sanitized frequently.

Social Distancing:

Social distancing will be observed as much as possible but at times students will be closer than the recommended 6 ft. apart. When social distancing requirements cannot be maintained such as class exchange time, etc., students will be expected to wear face coverings. We will redesign classrooms and cafeteria spaces to increase the space between students but cannot always guarantee it will be 6 ft. We strongly encourage students to not touch or breathe on one another.

Classrooms will be arranged to provide more space between students. That might mean all desks are arranged in rows facing in a single direction. We will make every effort to provide distance but not limit students' ability to interact and communicate with others in their classroom.

Cleaning and Maintaining Facilities:

Disinfectant spray and hand sanitizer will be used in classrooms to help maintain a safe and healthy environment. Ventilation and airflow will be managed by ac units and windows to help with air circulation. (New units are being installed in the high school)

Hand Washing and Respiratory Etiquette:

Signs have been posted throughout the school concerning handwashing and coughing techniques. They include tips and instructions for students to follow including; Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing; Use the nearest waste receptacle to dispose of the tissue after use; Perform hand hygiene (e.g., hand washing with nonantimicrobial soap and water, alcohol-based hand rub, or antiseptic hand wash) after having contact with respiratory secretions and contaminated objects/materials. Wash hands with soap for 20 seconds in warm water.

Testing Positive:

In the event an individual tests positive, we will follow the latest guidance from the ODH. We will be in direct contact with ODH and Cherokee Nation Health. This could result in a brief closure of a single school within the district to provide time for additional cleaning and sanitation.

Vaccination Clinics:

Cave Springs School will work with county and local Tribal health departments to hold additional vaccination clinics for students, staff and community members.

Contact Tracing:

In the event an individual tests positive, contact tracing will be used (in collaboration with Cherokee Nation, and the Oklahoma Department of Health) to determine exposure to other students. Students deemed to be at “high risk” of exposure will be quarantined. Those determined to be at a “low risk” of exposure will receive a parent notification letter.

Daily Screening:

Both students and adults will complete a daily screening tool. Teachers, faculty, and students will all receive a temperature check upon arrival to school facilities.

Individuals will be asked the following questions:

- 1.) Have you had a fever of 100.4°F or greater in the last 2 days
- 2.) Have you had a cough, difficulty breathing, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell
- 3.) Have you been in contact with a person known to be infected with COVID-19 within the previous 14 days.

If a student comes to school sick, the student will be screened and their temperature checked. If temperature is over the ODH guidance, the student will be sent home and will need to be fever free for 48 hours without medication before returning to school. When the child returns to school they will check in and be screened and their temperature checked before attending class or going in any public areas.

Cleaning and Sanitizing:

Sanitation and cleanliness will be a high priority for our district as we return in the fall. Staff will be provided sanitizer to disinfect frequently touched surfaces (door knobs, light switches, etc.) and restrooms. We have disinfectant sprays to quickly sanitize rooms. We will also provide time for hand washing and have hand sanitizer available throughout our campus: Students will be asked to sanitize their hands each time they leave and enter a new space.

Filling the Gaps:

Curriculum teams have worked to revise the curriculum so that missed essential standards will be addressed when students return. Additionally, students will be assessed to determine individual strengths and weaknesses. These assessments will determine if students need additional support. At the high school level, missed skills from a previous course will be embedded in the next course in the sequence. Remediation classes will be available as well as before and afterschool tutoring.

School Closure:

In the event schools close again, a plan for at-home digital learning has been developed. Teachers and students will utilize Edmentum, IXL, Study Island and Google Classroom to deliver virtual and online lessons. Students will learn how to use these Learning Systems by participating in lessons throughout the week while at school. Blended learning that includes both on-site traditional instruction and digital instruction will become the norm. This approach will allow students who might be ill or quarantined for a limited amount of time to continue their education even if they are not physically present in the classroom. Meals will be provided for students during a closure as well as weekend meals.

Special Needs:

In the event of a school closure, students will participate in virtual education by using Edmentum, IXL, Study Island Programs. Special services will work with the individualized needs of students to create specialized plans which may include live sessions, distance sessions, or a blended version of distance learning.