

KEENEYVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT 20

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August 13, 2021

Dear Keeneyville District 20 Families,

The countdown is on for the return to school next week! We are very excited to see all of our students back in-person, with Grades 1-8 starting on Tuesday, August 17, Preschool starting on Thursday, August 19, and Kindergarten starting on Monday, August 23.

We ask that our families review <u>District 20's Return to 100% In-Person Learning Plan</u> as you prepare for back-to-school which includes detailed health and safety protocols that students, staff, and visitors will be expected to follow to help keep our district and school community safe. We know that this continues to be a challenging time due to the pandemic and that having COVID-19 precautions in place is not ideal, but our top priority continues to keep our students and staff safe. We appreciate the support of our families as we move toward "pre-pandemic normal" as much as possible for our students.

D20 Health & Safety Protocols

We have outlined our key COVID-19 protocols below but encourage you to look to the <u>Return to Learn Plan</u> for 2021-2022 for more information and details.

- <u>Vaccinations:</u> We will continue to encourage families and staff in consultation with their health care provider to take advantage of the vaccination clinics available. *COVID-19 vaccinations will not be required to attend school.*
- 2. <u>Daily Health Certification</u>: We will require all individuals to certify each day that they are not experiencing COVID-19 related symptoms and have not been exposed to a positive case. *Do not send your child to school if s/he is sick*. We will use the same process as last spring, where parents/guardians must assess their student's health, complete, and sign the Student Health Certification Card which will be clipped to your child's backpack. Students will receive a card, plastic pouch, and clip at supply drop-off or on the first day of school.
- 3. <u>Face Masks:</u> We will require face masks for all individuals (age 2 and older) inside District 20 school buildings, regardless of vaccination status. This will apply to all teachers, staff, students, and visitors.
 - All students and adults are required to wear a face mask while riding on the bus, regardless of vaccination status.
 - Face mask breaks will be provided during snack, lunch, recess, and at other times during the school day, when possible.
 - Face masks do not need to be worn outside.
 - District 20 will implement a process of progressive steps if a student does not wear a face mask to protect the health and safety of our school community and not disrupt the learning environment, similar to a student's non-compliance with other school behavior policies. For Face Mask Protocols see the Return to Learn Plan (p. 6-7).
- 4. **Physical Distancing:** We will maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between individuals within classrooms, as much as possible, including during lunch.
- 5. <u>Handwashing & Cleaning:</u> We will maintain protocols for cleaning, disinfecting, handwashing, and respiratory etiquette.

6. Contact Tracing & Quarantine: Individuals who receive a positive COVID-19 test result will be required to self-isolate at home for 10 days from the date of first symptom. We will conduct contact tracing, and anyone identified as a "close contact" of a positive case will be required to quarantine at home for 10 days from the date of exposure. Fully vaccinated individuals will not need to quarantine unless they are symptomatic. Students who are out of school due to self-isolation or quarantine will participate in independent work until they are able to safely return to school. For more information see Return to Learn Plan (p. 10-11).

It is important to note that District 20's Return to 100% In-Person Learning Plan and Protocols are based on the current guidelines and information. We will continue to monitor and evaluate our plan and mitigation strategies, making changes as required as necessary in following updated guidelines or information, local health metrics, vaccination rates, and the availability of a pediatric vaccine for COVID-19. We will notify families and staff in the event that any changes are needed.

Additional Updates

- Registration must be completed before your student can attend school. At this time, your student can start to attend school <u>two days</u> after the registration is complete (i.e., if you complete registration on Monday 8/16 your child can attend school on Wednesday 8/18).
- Bus Schedules have been sent home by email and US mail to all elementary students. Middle school
 students should have received their bus schedule at supply drop-off or in the mail. If you have not
 received your bus schedule, please contact your school on Monday morning.
- Breakfast & Lunch will continue to be offered for free to all students at school. Elementary breakfast
 will be from 8:15-8:30am and Middle School breakfast will be from 7:15-7:30am daily. Lunch will be
 offered to all students, but students can opt to bring their own from home. Families can pick-up
 multi-day meal packs on Fridays for the weekend, as well as on holidays. See <u>Food Services</u> for
 monthly menus.

We will continue to update the website with FAQs, but if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email info@esd20.org or reach out directly to me or your school.

We are looking forward to seeing you and your students next week, please enjoy the weekend! Sincerely,

Dr. Omar Castillo Superintendent of Schools Keeneyville ESD 20