

## Frequently Asked Questions About Returning to School

### **Q: Will there be an Open House event this year?**

A: No, we will not have an Open House this year. To help protect students and staff, we will not be having guests come to walk around the building and in classrooms. We will be posting some videos with helpful information and views of classrooms to help you know how your child's room will look and who his/her teacher(s) will be.

### **Q: Will there be any time to drop off books/supplies before school?**

A: No, again, to prevent excess traffic in the building, it will be best to just bring supplies on the first day of school.

### **Q: Do students wear school uniforms on the first day of school?**

A: Yes, students should wear uniforms on the first day.

### **Q: What time can students be dropped off at school in the morning?**

A: Doors will be unlocked at 7:45 for students to enter the school building. We want to reduce the length of time students are waiting around and gathering in groups, so that is why it is later than last year.

### **Q: Where should my child enter the school building and where do they go when they arrive?**

A: Any students eating school breakfast will enter at the northeast corner of the elementary building like normal and go to the cafeteria for breakfast.

Students in grades K-5 who are not eating breakfast will enter at the northeast door of the elementary building and go directly to their classroom teacher's room (staff will help direct students):

- Kindergarten (Mrs. Hartwell) Room 104
- First Grade (Ms. Wagoner) Room 101
- Second Grade (Mrs. Boettcher) Room 103
- Third Grade (Ms. Larsen) Room 207
- Fourth Grade (Ms. Heying) Room 206
- Fifth Grade (Mrs. Lange) Room 205

Preschool students not eating breakfast will go directly to the preschool building and enter the designated door for their section, where they will be met by a staff member. We ask parents to not enter the building:

- Three-year-old preschool students are with Mrs. Kreutz and will use the southeast preschool building.
- Four-year-old preschool students are with Mrs. Mendoza and Mrs. Stille. Both of these classrooms use the same door for drop-off (a northeast door in the preschool).

(Room Locations - Kate)

Students in grades 6-12 should enter through the gym lobby doors. Sixth grade will then proceed to Mrs. McIntyre's room (208). Seventh grade will go to Ms. Anderson's room (11), and 8th grade will go to the band room with Mrs. Strom. Students in grades 9-12 will be given their class schedules upon entering the building and will then go directly to their first period classroom.

**Q: Will I be able to walk my child to their classroom on the first day of school?**

A: Unfortunately, no. Again, we are trying to minimize the extra traffic in the building to prevent any additional spread of germs. Faculty and staff will be present to help assist children on where to go as they are all excited to have them back.

**Q: What are the mask wearing guidelines, and will the school be providing any masks for my child?**

A: We hope to do all we can to keep students and teachers safe, so we want everyone to wear a mask when entering the building, exiting the building, walking in the hallways, waiting in common areas, and in classroom settings where physical distancing will not be possible. Teachers also may require masks in their specific classroom since we have a number of teachers in the high risk category, and we need to protect them so they can continue to do their job.

We do have some masks on hand for student use. We do ask you to provide a mask for your child each day whenever possible, and if able, write your student's name on it. Remember, too, that masks should be washed every day when a child returns home, and a clean or new one should be worn each day.

**Q: Will students in grades 6-12 still be changing rooms or will teachers be moving to go to the students?**

A: Students will still be moving to different rooms to ensure all resources are available to teachers to provide the best education possible. Desks and tables will be wiped down between every class so they are clean before the next group comes in.

**Q: What specific measures are being taken to help keep students safe?**

A:

- We are doing all we can to spread students out as much as possible and changing procedures to assist with that, such as the changes in drop off procedures and before school waiting areas.
- We are adding dividers between desks and on tables in the K-5 classrooms in order to provide another layer of protection for our students
- Students will have seating arrangements throughout the day to make it easier to do contact tracing if someone would test positive for COVID-19.
- We will be alternating passing times between classes for grades 6-12 to reduce traffic in the hallways
- We will be serving lunch out of the school cafeteria and in the parish center in order to allow kids to spread out more and have additional time to clean areas between groups.

- Elementary recesses are happening in a staggered format so only one class is on the playground at a time, and each elementary classroom has a bag of a few recess toys that will be individual to that class
- Extra cleaning will take place during the day and then more extensive cleaning after school to prepare for the next day

**Q: How will it be decided if students have to quarantine after a positive test of a student or teacher?**

A: We will be working closely with the Buena Vista County Department of Public Health to work out those details. Our consistent seating arrangements will help us know who has been sitting by each other throughout the day. Public Health will then help us decide who had close contact and will need to quarantine.

**Q: Will we still be having weekly school Masses?**

A: Yes, we do still plan to have Masses. We will follow many of the same protocols as the weekend Masses. Students will sit in class groupings with extra space between grade levels. We will not be having outside guests attend Mass though as we will be utilizing the full church to space out students.

**Q: Will drinking fountains still be used at school?**

A: The drinking fountains will be covered and not used. The only thing available will be the water bottle filling stations. PK-12 students will be encouraged to have their own labeled water bottle that can be filled at the filling stations. Disposable cups will also be available in elementary classrooms as well as needed.

**Q: Will lockers still be used?**

A: Yes, we will still assign lockers to students. No K-12 students will be sharing lockers. Elementary will also utilize shelves and hooks in the hallways. Several empty lockers divide each grade level. Both middle school and high school students will be able to use backpacks throughout the day to minimize the number of times they need to go to their lockers and so they have supplies with them at all times and do not have to share or borrow items from others.

**Q: What will after school pick-up look like?**

A: To spread students out more, students in grades 1st, 2nd, and 4th will be waiting in front of the church for pick-up, and students in grades Kindergarten, 3rd, and 5th will be waiting by the northeast door as they have in the past. Please have a sign in your car window (facing the school/church) with your child's first name and grade level on it. This will help speed up the process for supervisors at our pick-up locations and remove the need for a supervisor to approach your vehicle. If you are walking to pick up your child at the end of the day, please wear a mask, and keep yourself socially-distanced from the students and supervisor waiting with the group. Remember that Seneca street is a one-way only street, and children can only be picked up from the right-hand lane of the street. Do not park and block the left-hand lane of the street at any time. The left-hand lane must remain a through street at all times.

K-8 bus students are going to be picked up now at 3:10pm due to the transportation schedule from Storm Lake Public. Therefore, the gym lobby doors are now where we will have middle school students picked up since the bus will already be gone.

**Q: What are the most important things for us as parents to do to help make the year go smoothly?**

A: Keep your child home if they are sick. If they have a fever of 100.4 or higher, keep them home. Please do not give them Tylenol to reduce the fever and then send them to school. If your child has a new cough, a new loss of taste or smell, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing, those are high risk symptoms. If your child has any two of the following symptoms: fever, headache, muscle/body aches, fatigue, sore throat, runny nose, congestion, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea, please keep them home.

Also, please be patient. We are dealing with constantly changing information and we are doing our best to prepare for everything. We have waited to communicate until we had the most accurate information to share in order to avoid the frustrations of changing details on you after information has been shared.

Lastly, just know that every change that has been made for this year is for the purpose of allowing everyone to stay as safe as possible so we can remain with on-site learning and keep activities going for our students. We know not everyone will agree with it all, but we truly feel it is what gives us the best chance to continue educating our students in as normal of a setting as possible.

**NOTE: Please be aware that there may be a need for early dismissals due to heat during the first week of school. We will make our own call because the public school will not be dismissing due to heat.**