

School District of Shell Lake Fall Reopening Plan 2020-2021

Approved 07/28/2020

The School District of Shell Lake is dedicated to providing the safest possible environment for students and staff. We understand that national and state COVID-19 guidance is optimal but not all is practical in a small school setting. It is our responsibility to do all we can to keep students and staff safe in our educational setting. Our best chance of opening and remaining open while at the same time providing as much safety as possible for our staff and students is requiring the wearing of a face covering by all staff and students*. Being sensitive to the needs of both staff and students, attempts will be made to provide activities or times when mask breaks can occur. The only exceptions to the mask requirement will be in the event that there is a documented medical condition that would prohibit its use. In those instances, we will work with the family or individual to explore alternatives.

Our return to school plan addresses the learning needs of children in addition to being sensitive to their emotional needs and the anxiety that they may have returning to school. This will require flexibility on the part of both the district and those that we serve. While we hope that our families will chose to return to school in a few weeks, we will also be offering a virtual learning platform as well.

David Bridenhagen

Superintendent

**see addendum*

This is a fluid document. The Superintendent will make changes as new guidance and circumstances arise.

Educational Programming

There are three levels of educational programming that are established for the 2020-2021 school year. The level of instruction will be determined by the threat of COVID-19 to our staff, students and community. Movement between instructional levels will be determined with guidance from the Washburn County Public Health Department, the Department of Public Instruction, the Center for Disease Control and the State Department of Health Services. When the threat of COVID-19 is no longer present to our staff, students and community, all operations will return to pre pandemic instruction.

The levels of instructional programming are as follows:

Level One (Current level as of July 21, 2020)

- Students will be spaced 6 feet apart in classrooms as much as possible. This will be done utilizing the music and art rooms in the elementary wing and the commons, performance gym, Library Media Center, and choir room in the 7-12 wing.
 - Grades PK-3 have smaller class sizes due to the AGR (achievement Gap Reduction) program
 - Grades 4, 5 and 6 will increase from 2 to 3 classes per grade level. This will be accomplished by reassigning staff.
 - Grades 7-12 are larger classes (class size of more than 16 students) that will be divided into two cohorts. These two cohorts will alternate days between attending class in the classroom and streaming the class from another supervised site in the building
- Students will not share school supplies.
- Supplies that must be shared (math manipulatives, paint brushes, etc.) will be disinfected after use.
- Students in grade 7-12 will be assigned a Chromebook.
- The student day will begin at 9:00 AM and end at 3:30 PM. To accommodate the later start time for families needing to get to work earlier, we are offering a before school program at the primary building that will operate between 7:30 AM and 8:45 AM. Students must be dropped off by parents in the morning at the primary school. Students will be transported by the district to the PK-12 site at 8:40 am. We will continue to offer the after-school program that families may enroll in. To allow cleaning of the

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building and provide social distancing in the after-school program, we may also use the primary building for programming.

- Staff may be reassigned to support core classrooms.
- Daily schedule modifications to reduce student grouping
 - Front doors
 - Halls
 - Lunchroom
 - Recess
- Social and emotional support by guidance counselors
 - Weekly/monthly classroom discussions at all grades.
 - Focus on social and emotional health during the first week back to school.
 - Focus on staff wellness program and use available resources.

Virtual Options

- Students and families who are not comfortable attending school at this time may participate in Online Virtual instruction. We use Fuel Education as our virtual platform. Instruction is coordinated and supported by Shell Lake School staff and is taught by a third party. Movement in and out of the program is difficult. If you chose this option, it is recommended that you stay in the program for minimally the full trimester. Fuel education is a combination of printed and online instruction. For younger students, (Kindergarten through grade 2) approximately 30% of instruction is online and 70% is printed. The amount of online instruction increases to as much as 70% online and 30% printed as grade levels increase. Materials are sent directly to the home of the student. A Shell Lake staff member will be assigned to the student to oversee the program and check in with the student.
- Students in grade 7-12 will be able to attend school online in full or in part using Google Classroom and Google Meet. This will require parent approval and carries with it the expectation that students will complete all assigned material. Standard grading will be used.

Level 2

This level would be implemented in the event that there was a spike in covid related absences (staff and students). It could also be implemented if there is an overall spike in illness throughout the county.

- Students will attend school two days a week and be taught virtually two days a week. One day will be used for teacher preparation of the virtual learning and cleaning. Online instruction would be delivered by Shell Lake teachers.
- Classes will be taught at specific times and attendance will be taken.
- Traditional grading will remain in place.
- Online instruction will be delivered using Google Classroom and Google Meeting.
- Students enrolled in Fuel Education would be unaffected.
- The building will receive a thorough disinfecting on Wednesdays.
- All lunch will be served in the classroom

Level 3

This level would be implemented in the event that school has to be closed for a brief period or longer time. It may come as a result of a state mandated closure, an advisory by the county health department or the result of an excessive number of staff and student absences to the degree that we are not able to remain open.

- All Instruction will be provided online.
- Classes will run at regularly scheduled class times.
- Traditional grading will remain in place.

Safety Protocols

- All staff and students will be required to wear masks.
- Water bottles should be brought from home. The majority of our drinking fountains have bottle fillers. The fillers will remain turned on while the fountains will be turned off.
- Lunch and recess schedules will be staggered to provide social distancing.
- Social distancing of six feet will be adhered to as much as possible.
- Students will sit facing the same direction in classrooms and the lunchroom.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in every classroom.
- Students and staff will receive training on proper hand washing.
- Every family will be provided a thermometer to take students temperature before school. Students with a morning temperature of 100 degrees or more are to remain home until temperature drops without the use of medication for 24 hours. Families will be furnished with at least one face mask.
- Students becoming ill at school will be evaluated and, if necessary, quarantined for parent pick up. Prompt pick up of ill child is requested.

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- COVID testing at school may be an option for staff students based on symptoms, recommendation by the district nurse and parent or guardian consent.
- Signs will be posted throughout the school that promote and remind students about social distancing and hand washing.
- Students will be assigned seats on the bus. Buses will be loaded from back to front and unloaded front to back to minimize contact.
- Students from the same family will sit together on the bus with at least one empty seat between the next child or family sitting on the bus.
- Busses will be sanitized by drivers after each route.
- Visitors will be required to wear masks upon entering the building and will not be allowed into the instructional areas. This is a temporary policy that will remain in place until the pandemic is over or conditions allow.
- Parent/teacher conferences will be held virtually.
- Meetings will be held virtually whenever possible.

Addendum

Requirement of masks

The purpose of requiring masks is to protect our staff, students and visitors as much as possible. While masks will be required, there will be times when masks may be removed throughout the day. Below are examples of how masks will be implemented:

Masks may be removed at teacher discretion when students are at a distance of six feet apart essentially creating a six foot “bubble” area around them. When that is not possible, there will be a minimum scheduled “mask break” of at least 5 minutes within the hour. Masks will not be required once students have received their lunch, during recess, during band practice (social distancing of six feet will be utilized), in physical education or any other time when a distance of at least six feet is provided.

Masks will be required on the bus, during passing times, upon entry and exit of the building, bathrooms and any other area where social distancing of six feet is not possible.

Visitors will be required to wear a face mask upon entering the building.

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