

## **In-Person Learning Plan for Discovery Public School of Faribault**

Discovery Public School will implement Scenario 1: In-Person Learning when it is safe to do so, based on the weekly case numbers in Rice County. In-person learning at DPS will differ slightly from previous years. Students will not engage in small group work. Instead, students will all face the same direction in classrooms to minimize exposure to the COVID-19 virus. Students and staff will all be required to wear masks, and six feet of distance will be maintained as much as possible. Lunch periods will be divided, so that fewer students will eat at the same time. Signs will be posted at the front door and throughout the school to remind students, staff, and visitors of the rules for entry.

DPS has altered our schedule to provide staggered passing times and release times. We will also use a Flex period in the middle of the day to provide social emotional learning and additional math and reading intervention to all students to mitigate learning loss from last spring and from disruptions throughout the coming school year. Students will complete work on Chromebooks more frequently to ease the transition between in-person learning and the other learning models, and to minimize virus transmission via paper assignments.

Students who are unable to attend school in person will have a slightly different learning experience. They will use our online curriculum, Edgenuity, and Google Classroom to engage in learning activities. They will be required to check in with teachers daily via text, email, phone, video conferencing, or by interacting through Google Classroom or Edgenuity. They will have the opportunity to join in-person classes via Google Meet when possible.

Staff will be trained on our online curriculum, as well as how to minimize exposure to the COVID-19 virus. They will be provided with the proper PPE and other requested materials, as needed.

The COVID-19 Program Coordinator is our director Dan Weisser. He can be reached at [dweisser@isd4081.org](mailto:dweisser@isd4081.org) or 507-331-5423. Sharon Hansen ([shansen@isd4081.org](mailto:shansen@isd4081.org)) is our secondary coordinator.

For students opting to remain in distance learning, the same rules as for distance learning apply. Teachers and support staff will communicate and connect with each student daily. They will be able to address specific student needs. Students will be encouraged to join their in-person classes remotely via Google Meet to foster peer-to-peer interactions. For students not using online distance learning, materials will be provided for contactless pick up by appointment. Students will be encouraged to meet with teachers for direct instruction either in person during office hours or online via video conferencing.

When DPS needs to change between learning models due to an increase in the number of COVID-19 cases in Rice County, there will be a “pivot” day(s) for staff and students to adjust. Students will remain at home and Distance Learning will be provided. The school will then make appropriate changes to the building for Hybrid Learning (seating, spacing, etc.) or prepare online lessons for Distance Learning. Teachers will adjust their lesson plans accordingly. Plans will be communicated to families as early as possible.

## **Operation Specifics**

### **Social Distancing and Minimizing Exposure**

During the in-person learning, students will maintain social distancing as much as possible. Classrooms will be set up to maintain distance. Group work will be minimized, if used at all. Students will be seated facing the front of the room. Floor markings will be placed outside the classroom and around teachers desks to remind students to keep their distance. Students will only be allowed to use the restroom one at a time. Markings will be placed in the lunch line to keep students distanced while waiting in line to get their lunch. Markings will be placed on the cafeteria benches to remind students where to sit.

At the beginning of the day, students will be instructed to go straight to their first hour class, or the cafeteria if they would like to eat breakfast. Staff will monitor the front doors to direct students to their location. Teachers will monitor students in their classrooms. At the end of the school day, students will be released one by one. Non-teaching staff will be located near the door to control traffic flow to maintain social distancing. Parents who are picking up students are asked to stay in their vehicles to wait for students to come out.

DPS does not currently share our building with outside organizations. We will restrict non-essential visitors by screening them at the front door via intercom. Parents who will be picking up students during the school day will be instructed to call the office or speak to the office manager via intercom. Signing out of students in the office will no longer be required.

Students will distance themselves from each other by at least six feet while waiting in line for lunch. Floor markings will help them determine the proper distance. Students will be served their lunch by staff members. Condiments and utensils will no longer be self-serve. Staff will distribute these items as well. Older students will be allowed to leave the building for lunch, reducing the number of students eating in the cafeteria.

### **Cloth Face Coverings**

Students, staff, and visitors will be required to wear a mask. Students and staff refusing to wear one may be subject to disciplinary action. The school will have a supply of disposable masks for any staff, student, or visitor who does not have one.

Staff will lead by example and conduct specific lessons at the beginning of the year regarding proper mask wearing and to address any misconceptions within the classroom and community regarding masks.

### **Protecting Vulnerable Populations**

Parents were given the option to choose distance learning during periods where in person or hybrid learning will be used. This option will be available for any students/families who wish to change their learning plan during the year.

All Individual Education Plans are being reviewed by our special education director and teachers to identify students with special health care needs and update their plans to accommodate these needs. Each plan will detail accommodations for each of the three scenarios.

### **Hygiene Practices**

DPS has on hand cleaning supplies and disinfectant that meets the EPA requirements for effectiveness against the COVID-19 virus. We will provide hand sanitizer at the front door and in each classroom, as well as the front office. Disinfectant wipes or spray will be provided to each staff member for cleaning high-contact surfaces in the classroom between student cohorts. Common areas will be cleaned and sanitized frequently throughout the day by staff.

Staff and students will be encouraged to wash their hands frequently or use hand sanitizer when necessary. Soap and water will be available in all bathrooms. Students will be instructed on the importance of hygiene in the first week of school with follow up lessons throughout the year.

### **Cleaning and Materials Handling**

Teachers will wipe down desks and other high-touch surfaces in the classroom between each class period. Other staff will wipe down high-touch surfaces in group spaces throughout the building (i.e.: stair railings, bathrooms, door knobs/handles)

Students will carry their own supplies in a personal backpack throughout the day. Teachers will have extra supplies like pencils, but will not expect students to return them at the end of a class period. Students will be instructed not to share items with other students.

Chromebooks will be checked out at the beginning of the day so each student will use the same device all day. All Chromebook surfaces will be disinfected at the end of each day.

### **Monitoring and Excluding for Illness**

Parents will be instructed to check their students for symptoms each morning, and keep children home if they are displaying symptoms. DPS will communicate these expectations to families before the start of the school year, with frequent reminders throughout the year. Parents will receive written communication as well as email and text messages.

Staff should monitor students for symptoms throughout the day and send any student displaying symptoms to the office to have their temperature checked. Parents will be notified to pick up their child as soon as possible. We will have a separate, quarantine space where students displaying symptoms will stay until someone arrives to transport them home.

Staff will complete a self-monitoring checklist prior to reporting to work. They will be instructed to stay home if they are showing symptoms and/or have a fever of 100.4° F.

Employees on sick leave will teach their classes remotely, if possible, with supervision on site provided by licensed staff members or substitute teachers. If too many staff members become ill, DPS will transition to distance learning until staffing returns to acceptable levels.

### **Handling of Suspected or Confirmed Positive Cases of COVID-19**

If a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 is discovered, Dan Weisser will coordinate with local and state response teams to manage the situation. This information will be communicated to families and staff before the start of school.

Signs will be placed at the front entrance and near the office door requiring that anyone displaying symptoms not enter the building.

### **Transportation**

DPS receives transportation services through the local district and Faribault Transportation. Faribault Public Schools will monitor transportation protocols to maintain hygiene and distancing rules.

### **Student and Family Support**

DPS will communicate frequently with students and families to determine specific needs. We will host an open house before the start of the school year to allow students and families to see what learning will look like this year. During the first week of school, students will be trained on the expectations of each learning scenario. Information on how to apply for mental health services through Fernbrook Family Services will also be provided to all families. Students experiencing homelessness will be provided school supplies. We will also work with homeless students and families to help them find community resources.

### **Academic Considerations**

To address learning loss from last year, NWEA MAP Growth Assessments will be administered as soon as possible at the beginning of the school year. Data from these assessments will be used to determine learning needs for individual students and provide specific instruction to mitigate learning loss in each core subject area. We will also adopt a new learning platform that provides assessments to target specific learning loss for each individual student. We will use this learning platform to offer additional reading and math learning during a required eReading or eMath course four days a week. Our online curriculum will also provide enhanced learning in the classroom to help students recover lost learning from last year and the anticipated disruptions of this year.

During both in-person and hybrid learning, we will include Social Emotional Learning in our curriculum. One day a week during our flex period we will implement our SEL curriculum to support students' social-emotional needs. Students will learn coping skills to help them through this difficult time. DPS also has Fernbrook Family Services offices in our building to facilitate mental health services for students in need.

## **Professional Learning**

All staff will participate in several professional development opportunities before the start of the school year to learn our new online curriculum as well as how to safely teach while protecting themselves and students from COVID-19.

*School Board Approved: August 20, 2020*