

## Safe Return to School Plan for 2021-22 Discovery Public School of Faribault

In-person learning at Discovery Public School will differ slightly from previous years. Masks are recommended for both vaccinated and non-vaccinated students and staff, but not required. Social distancing will be maintained when 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.

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.

The future of the COVID-19 virus and possible variants is uncertain. In the event of a severe outbreak, either statewide or limited to DPS, we will use the learning models developed for 2020-21 as needed. The school staff will make appropriate changes to the building 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, and masks will be encouraged.

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.

Students will distance themselves from each other by at least three feet while waiting in line for lunch. Students will be served their lunch by staff members. Condiments and utensils will no longer be self-serve and lunches will individually packaged. Lunch will be divided with middle school students in the gym and high school students in the cafeteria. Older students will be allowed to leave the building for lunch, reducing the number of students eating in the cafeteria.

#### Face Coverings

Students, staff, and visitors will be encouraged to wear a mask whether vaccinated or not. The school will have a supply of disposable masks for any staff, student, or visitor who wishes to wear one. Staff will lead by example and address any misconceptions within the classroom and community regarding masks.

### **Protecting Vulnerable Populations**

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.

### **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 frequently. Other staff will wipe down high-touch surfaces in group spaces throughout the building (i.e.: stair railings, bathrooms, door knobs/handles). Any Chromebooks that are used by a class will be disinfected after use.

### **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.

### **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. 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. Math and reading intervention classes will be offered for students who are academically below grade level according to standardized tests.

*School Board Approved: 8/19/2021*