

Re-Opening Plan

Dodgeland School District
July 20, 2020



We believe that learning happens in relationship to others.

While it is our ultimate goal to welcome our staff and students back into our building this fall, we recognize the need to provide families with virtual options as well. Our re-opening plan includes choices for parents to select the option that is best for their family. **Parents will be asked to select an option no later than August 15.**

We believe that working together we can create learning experiences that will meet all students' unique needs. For those choosing in-person learning, being in the school building will look and feel differently with safety procedures in place to mitigate the risks inherent with COVID-19. Whichever option is selected will require communication, cooperation and diligence so that we can all be safe and continue learning.

The district's plan represents the best information that we have at this time. Information from our Dodge County Public Health Department, Wisconsin's Department of Health Services (DHS), the Department of Public Instruction (DPI), the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), numerous federal, state and regional webinars, sessions with attorneys, and weekly meetings with area school districts, which included

representation from Dodge County's Public Health Department, is reflected in this plan. It should also be noted that we surveyed our parents and our staff, but quickly learned strong differences of opinions exist between these surveys regarding how to re-open school safely this fall. That being said, there was agreement in both surveys: our students need to be back in school with us. Finally, we reviewed plans shared by other school districts and carefully considered how those plans would be implemented in our learning environments.

Because our plan is based on contemporary, empirical information, we believe it is likely that the plan will need to be changed in response to updated data and guidance.

As we experienced in March, this change may need to occur overnight. We thank you in advance for your support and understanding.

#WeAreDodgeland

Our plan requires flexibility as we will likely need to make adjustments, quarantine groups and/or close throughout this pandemic. Our plan simply represents our best efforts to get students back into the building AND keep everyone safe and well. At times, we may need to quarantine a cohort or one building in our system. While we hope to minimize the possibility of closing the entire system and transitioning to a virtual learning format for everyone, we need to acknowledge the possibility that such actions may be needed. Again, we thank you for our cooperation.

We commit to ongoing communication with our families as we navigate through these uncertain times.

As changes are warranted, new information will be shared via SchoolMessenger. Parents and staff must confirm that their contact information is accurate in PowerSchool as SchoolMessenger is our primary communication tool.

None of us wanted to start the 2020-2021 school year in this manner. We continue to learn from our experiences last spring, read research and share thoughts and ideas with others as we work hard to improve the educational experience for the students we serve. Although not ideal, we can make the 2020-2021 school year a year filled with good memories and great learning. We need to work together and support each other as we travel the road to a better tomorrow - together.

Creating Pathways Forward

The following three options are available for families to choose from:

4K – 6th Grade

OPTION 1

In-person five days a week:

- School is in session from 8:00 AM to 2:30 PM
- Social distancing precautions in place
- Wearing a face covering *when not socially distanced*
- Building cleaned with hospital-grade cleaners and new equipment throughout the day
- Bottle fillers available as the water fountains are shut off
- School nurse checking students who display any symptoms (isolation rooms identified)
- Breakfast and lunch served in classrooms
- Students placed in cohorts to minimize exposure to other students
- Students take iPads and chargers home daily in district-purchased cases

OPTION 2

Live-streamed blended learning :

While at home, using district-issued technology, students will see their teacher teaching from their classroom following the school day schedule. This *short-term* option allows for those who are not sure about physically returning to school for in-person instruction to stay current with their peers in anticipation of eventually returning to in-person instruction. This option will also be used if a student has any symptoms of illness or a student, cohort, grade or building has to be quarantined due to exposure to the coronavirus. Attendance consists of virtually participating in learning.

OPTION 3

Virtual school:

Dodgeland has partnered with a virtual school in order to provide a completely online option for kindergartners through 6th grade, while remaining a Dodgeland student. Students participating in this option will remain in the virtual school for an entire semester. The virtual school will supply the technology/workbooks to be used at the student's home. Students will need to be able to work independently through online lessons and will have a teacher from the virtual school available to check progress and provide assistance. At the end of the semester, the student may continue at the virtual school or switch to either the in-person or live-streamed options.

7th – 12th Grade

OPTION 1

In-person five days a week:

- Students follow an 8-period daily schedule from 7:50 AM to 2:45 PM
- Social distancing precautions in place
- Wearing a face covering *when not socially distanced*
- Building cleaned with hospital-grade cleaners and new equipment throughout the day
- Bottle fillers available as the water fountains are shut off
- School nurse checking students who display any symptoms (isolation rooms identified)
- Breakfast and lunch served in classrooms
- Students will assist in cleaning their work stations

OPTION 2

Live-streamed blended learning:

While at home, using district-issued technology, students will see their teacher teaching from their classroom following the school day schedule. This *short-term* option allows for those who are not sure about physically returning to school for in-person instruction to stay current with their peers in anticipation of eventually returning to in-person instruction. This option will also be used if a student has any symptoms of illness or a student, class, grade or building has to be quarantined due to exposure to the coronavirus. Attendance consists of virtually participating in learning.

OPTION 3

Online coursework:

Students participate in online courses (APEX) monitored by a Dodgeland staff member. A full schedule will be created using a catalog of courses available for varying abilities and interests. Students will need to be able to create their own daily schedule and work independently through online coursework in order to complete the coursework by the end of the semester. At the end of the first semester, the student may continue APEX courses or switch to in-person or live-streamed options.

NOTE: MS and HS students attending Dodgeland via option #2 or #3 remain eligible for participation in Dodgeland co-curricular and extra-curricular activities.

Plan Components

Health Assessments

Our plan begins at home. Keeping individuals who may be contagious with COVID – 19 at home is key to maintaining the health and safety of the entire system. Staff, parent and student education will be done via short, appropriate videos and written checklists and reminders.

Additionally,

- **Students who are sick and still at home are asked to remain at home.**
- **Students who display symptoms while at school** will be placed in the designated “isolation room”. Parents and/or guardians will be called and asked to promptly retrieve their child, take him or her to their physician and follow that doctor’s guidance. Isolation rooms will be sanitized after each child’s visit.

Sanitization of the building

The District has purchased additional cleaning equipment, chemicals and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

Custodial staff will be cleaning common areas, such as the restrooms, and frequently touched items, such as door handles, throughout the instructional day.

Water fountains are turned off and will remain off for the foreseeable future. The District is purchasing additional water filling stations for student and staff use. Water bottles are permitted throughout the building. Please label all water bottles with your child’s name.

Students will have frequent handwashing breaks throughout the day. In the Elementary School, students will wash their hands with soap and water upon arrival at school, before and after recess, and before and after breakfast, lunch and snack time. In the Middle and High School, hand sanitizer will be used as students enter the building. Each classroom has hand sanitizer and spray bottles and towels to clean work spaces between student use. Finally, each evening, the building will be thoroughly sprayed to remove any contagion.

School Nutrition

Breakfast and hot lunch will be served in the classrooms. The soup and salad bar and the High School ala carte line will be closed until further notice. Microwaves will not be available for student use. The Common Grounds Coffee Shop will be closed.

Personal Protective Equipment

Personal Protective Equipment or PPE is an important part of keeping staff and students safe. Recent studies indicate that a significant number of individuals with coronavirus do not display symptoms of the virus and can spread the virus to others before showing symptoms. This means that the virus can spread between people interacting in close proximity even if those individuals are not exhibiting symptoms. The revised CDC guidance recommends wearing face coverings in public settings where social distancing is not possible.

- **Student and Staff Face coverings:** Face coverings are required any time staff and students are not socially distanced (i.e., less than six feet apart). We ask for the cooperation of our staff and students to make this a common practice. Two cloth face coverings will be provided to every student and staff member as needed. A student or staff member who is unable to wear face coverings because of health concerns or a disability will need to provide documentation to the District Office so that appropriate accommodations may be made. Additional disposable face coverings will be available for use on the buses and in classrooms in case students forget to bring their own.
- **Staff Masks:** Face masks can protect the wearer from contagion others may be spreading. We have purchased N95 masks for any staff member who feels they want/ need to wear this additional protection. Staff members who elect to wear this additional PPE are able to re-wear the masks by placing individual masks in a paper bag for several days. Our plan is to provide five masks to each staff member who wants to wear them. The reason for giving staff five masks is to allow time for any virus to die on that surface before the mask is worn again.
- **Staff Face Shields:** Face shields with additional cloth coverage to protect others from respiratory droplets will be provided to staff who would like the additional protection afforded by this PPE. The use of face shields would be an appropriate choice depending on individual needs.



Plan Components *continued*



In-Person Instructional Delivery Model

- **Social distancing** will be practiced as much as possible. Classrooms will be cleared of extraneous furniture to allow student desks to be spaced as far apart as possible. However, we want to be clear: we cannot guarantee that students will be socially distanced at all times. Knowing social distancing will not be occurring at all times, it is important to know that health officials consider a “contact” as any interaction that occurs when individuals are less than six feet apart for more than 15 minutes. When students are less than six feet apart, they will be required to wear face coverings.
- **Cohorts:** Students in Grades 4K – 6 will be placed in “cohorts”, which will remain together throughout the day. Students in Grades 7 – 12 will have desks spaced as far apart as possible, but will be rotating to their classes throughout the day. Between each class, students will be cleaning their workspace with supplies provided by the District to ensure the next student has a clean workspace from which to work.
- **Arrival and Dismissal Arrangements:** Upon arrival, students will go to their locker to secure their personal items and then proceed directly to their homeroom (Elementary School students) or first hour classroom (Middle or High School students).

Dismissal will be staggered. Details will be shared at a later date. Please be advised that there will be new traffic flow procedures and locations for dropping off and picking up students at the building for all levels.

- **Before and After School Care:** At this time, after-school care will be provided by the YMCA of Dodge County. Before-school care is being considered. Please call the YMCA (887-8811) and ask to speak with Meg Evsich.

Transportation

Dodgeland will use the same procedures as other schools in Dodge County:

- Students must wear face coverings to ride the bus
- One student per seat and must be seated next to the window
- Family members may be seated in the same seat
- Hands must be sanitized as students enter and exit the bus
- Students are asked to practice social distancing while waiting at bus stops

The district will be implementing a **new process** for loading and unloading buses at the school to provide greater separation between age groups. Details and a diagram will be forthcoming.

The **student parking pass fee is waived** to encourage more students to drive to school rather than take the bus.

Entrance into the Building

The building is closed to visitors, including parents, unless an appointment is scheduled with school personnel. Additionally, parents who walk their children to and from school must remain outside and physically distanced from other individuals.

Individuals making deliveries to the school building are required to wear a face covering at all times.

Emotional Wellbeing

Schools provide so much more than academic learning. We provide a safe haven for students who may be experiencing trauma at home, a place to speak with a trusted adult about mental health concerns, and a gathering place for peers and colleagues to share life. These vital elements of our educational system were not possible throughout the closure of our school building. The District will be increasing our emphasis on self-care, resiliency, compassion, and kindness as we navigate our new learning environment.



Dodgeland
S C H O O L S

The Road to a Better Tomorrow

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The Dodgeland School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex or handicap.