



## Beckemeyer Elementary

# Reopening Plan

**2020-2021 School Year**

The 2020-2021 school year will present unique challenges as we continue to provide a rigorous education for children while at the same time doing everything in our power to ensure their mental and physical health.

This plan is an overview of the instructional and health/safety guidelines that will be implemented during the 2020-2021 school year consistent with guidance from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). Additional information about COVID-19 issues impacting schools can be located on both the [ISBE](#) and [IDPH](#) websites.



# Instructional Plan

To give our staff additional time for training and other preparations unique to the current situation, we are moving the first day of student attendance to **Wednesday, August 19th**.

As a district, we have developed a model that gives students and families a choice between in-person instruction and remote learning. Having both options will ease the transition between in-person and remote learning should mandatory closures begin. With this said, the educational experience is greatly enhanced by the face-to-face relationships that accompany in-person instruction. Our district's preferred instructional delivery is in-person with students and staff building these relationships in a safe, supportive environment.

## In Person Instruction

- ❑ In-person instruction will occur Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 1:25pm.
- ❑ Student schedules will be followed with modified times. Both core academic and specials classes will be offered.
- ❑ Instruction, grading, and attendance will closely mirror past practices with the addition of many health and safety protocols.

## Remote Learning

- ❑ The remote learning option will be very different from the program we ran this spring.
- ❑ Remote learning will occur Monday through Friday. Students should be available for video conferencing with teachers from 1:45pm to 3:30pm each day.
- ❑ Students will be tasked with independent and teacher-directed study activities. Students will be expected to complete school related tasks for approximately 5 hours a day.
- ❑ Daily participation, assignment submission, grading, and attendance is required.
- ❑ Any who sign up for remote learning and then do not participate in earnest will be referred to our truancy program.

## Selection of Program

As part of the registration process, you will be asked to select in-person instruction or remote learning. During the course of the year, program selection may be changed according to individual circumstances.

## Transportation

The school district will provide transportation for up to 50 students on regular buses with social distancing maintained to the greatest extent possible. All riders, drivers, and staff members must wear face masks on the bus. A staff member will conduct symptom and temperature checks for each child prior to boarding the bus. It is recommended that a parent wait at the bus stop with the child so that students who do not pass the symptom check can return home. The District is asking anyone who has alternative transportation (parent, sibling, relative, neighbor) to consider using those methods. We appreciate your help and support, as fewer children on buses will not only help prevent the spread of COVID-19 but also result in shorter commute times and fewer routes.



## Arrival

All bus riding students will be dropped off by the gym. Students dropped off by parents or guardians should be dropped off in the front circle drive no earlier than 7:45 AM. This is to ensure safe and effective procedures and supervision. Before exiting the vehicle, students should be masked. Parents are asked to remain in vehicles. The student's temperature will be taken by a staff member prior to entering the building.

## Dismissal

Bus students will be dismissed at approximately 1:25 and walk home/pick up students at 1:35. Bus students will be dismissed from their rooms by bus numbers at the end of each day. Walk home/pick up students will be escorted from their classrooms to the front entrance by their classroom teacher. Parents who are picking their child up from school should use the front circle drive to pick up your child. Parents should pull into the front circle drive in a single file line and pull as far forward as possible. Your child will come to your vehicle and enter on the passenger side. Once your child is in the car, you can pull out and exit the circle drive. If you need to park and walk up to the building to pick up your child, we ask that you practice social distancing whenever possible.

## Food

Sack lunches from home will be permitted, but parents will not be allowed to drop off food during the school day. No sharing of food/drink items will be allowed. No food or other gift exchanges will be allowed for birthdays, etc. There will not be any snacks in the classrooms during the day. All of these restrictions are designed to limit the use of shared items to help reduce the transmission of COVID-19.

## Breakfast

Students who choose to eat breakfast will eat in one of three locations throughout the building. Students will be grouped by grade levels in one of the three locations. This will help to maintain social distancing while eating breakfast.

## Recess/Outdoor Activities

Students will be allowed to remove their masks when outdoors while maintaining social distancing. The playground area of Beckemyer will be divided into three sections for recess. Two classes will be assigned at a time to each section of the playground. Students will be supervised by teachers and aides while on recess. Students will be asked to maintain social distancing whenever possible during recess and other outdoor activities.

## Lunch

Teachers will assign half of their class to eat in the cafeteria each day. The other half of the class will eat in their room. Students will rotate who eats in the room and who eats in the cafeteria by the teacher. Students will maintain social distancing to the best extent possible in both the classroom and the cafeteria.

## School Supplies

School supply lists will be posted with registration materials. Our staff will encourage less sharing/more individual use of school supplies.

## Water Fountains

There are several water fountains with bottle filling stations located throughout the building. Only the bottle filling stations will be operational. Students are encouraged to carry a personal water bottle with them; please ensure that your child's name is prominently displayed on the water bottle.



### **Art, Music, Library, PE**

Art, Music, and Library class will be taught in each child's classroom. Beckemeyer school library will not be available for students to check out books. Students will go to the gym for PE. PE classes will be held outside whenever possible.

### **Special Education/Title Services**

Special education and Title I services will run as normal as possible this year. Students will leave their classrooms to go work with their special education teachers and Title I teachers to receive additional services.

# **Health and Safety Protocols**

## **Face Masks**

While at school and on the bus, students age 2 and older and adults must wear face masks except under specific exceptions. Masks should fully cover the mouth and nose, and fit snugly against the sides of the face. Reusable masks should be washed and dried after each use. Health experts recommend the use of face masks to prevent the spread of COVID-19. We recognize that this issue has become politicized and controversial. We need your help. Please talk with your child about this new expectation of wearing a face mask at school. The school fully recognizes there is a difference between a child who is having difficulty with his or her mask and tries to adjust it throughout the day, and those students who are willfully refusing to wear their mask. Refusing to wear a face mask, or otherwise engaging in conduct that compromises the safety of others, will result in disciplinary consequences.

There will be times throughout the day where removing masks is permitted (e.g. lunch, recess, outdoor PE classes) while social distancing is maintained. Teachers may provide instruction or frequent breaks outdoors so that students have relief from masks.

Please provide a mask for your child to wear. We will also be distributing washable masks to each student and employee when they are available. Disposable masks will also be available on every bus and at the entrance to every building. There might be some very rare situations that will preclude a student or staff member from wearing a mask. In these cases, other precautions will be put into place to keep students and staff safe.

## **Hand Washing/Sanitizing**

Students will be provided with multiple opportunities to wash hands and use hand sanitizer while at school. Sanitizing stations will be available throughout the building.

## **Symptom Checks**

Everyone will be screened prior to entering a bus or building and monitored for symptoms throughout the day. Anyone exhibiting symptoms associated with COVID-19 will immediately be quarantined and assessed by the school nurse, and parents will be notified.



## Cleaning and Fresh Air Supply

The School District has implemented extensive daily cleaning protocols for our school buildings and buses. Student work areas and shared equipment will be sanitized throughout the day between users. Each building will be deep cleaned and sanitized nightly. In addition, our HVAC systems have been adjusted to provide the maximum amount of fresh air to be blended with conditioned air and circulated in our buildings.

## Social Distancing

The joint ISBE and IDPH guidance recognizes that 6-foot physical social distancing between individuals is recommended, but that this will not be feasible at all times. We have taken steps to reconfigure some of our classrooms, lunchrooms and other shared spaces with social distancing in mind. Student movement around the building will be supervised and choreographed with the goal of maintaining social distancing.

## Illness at School

All students not feeling well will be sent to the office to be assessed by the school nurse. Any student with a temperature over 100.4 degrees will be sent home. An area in the office will be used to quarantine students suspected of having Covid 19 until a family member can come to school to pick them up.

If a student or staff member tests positive for Covid 19 the school will work with the Montgomery County Health Department and local doctors to help with contact tracing to determine if any other student or staff member should self quarantine.

## Contact Tracing, Quarantine, and Exclusions

School personnel will be working closely with the Montgomery County Health Department. In the eventuality of a suspected exposure to COVID-19, the district will supply the health department with information such as seating charts and student/staff schedules.. The health department will then conduct contract tracing and make decisions regarding those who need to quarantine and/or be excluded.

## School Closures

In the event that a short-term closure to clean and disinfect the school or a long-term school closure is required or mandated, all students will transition to remote learning. This will be communicated as soon as possible after state and local health officials make this determination.

## Student Illness

Please let us know when your child is ill. We simply cannot protect the health of our students and staff without your help. We are obligated by law to keep this information confidential. We are required to track both staff and student illnesses to inform local health officials and initiate contact tracing, if necessary. Both ISBE and IDPH have issued the following list of COVID-19 symptoms that must be reported to school and that require exclusion from school: fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, fatigue, muscle and body aches, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, congestion or runny nose, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.

School personnel will communicate with you directly regarding the necessary school exclusion period and return to school protocols.

During absences due to illness, your child will be allowed to make up all missed work and assignments. The missed school days will be marked 'excused' and your child may participate in the remote learning platform if deemed appropriate.



## Close Contact at Home

One of the most complex and daunting aspects of COVID-19 for schools is the contagious nature of the virus. For this reason, we ask that you let us know if your child has had close contact with a family member or friend who is either exhibiting symptoms of or has been diagnosed with COVID-19. Examples include siblings, parents, grandparents, other relatives, babysitters, etc., whether they reside in your home or not. We are asking for this information because it tends to be one of the first questions that local health officials ask us for purposes of contact tracing. This additional information will help us stay ahead of our reporting obligations and also help us better serve your child.

## Close Contact at School

Either local health officials or school personnel will notify you if your child comes in close contact at school with a student or staff member who has contracted COVID-19. We will provide this information to you without specifying names or any other personally identifiable information. We understand that this may be frustrating, but school districts are bound by strict confidentiality laws. You may receive this notification directly from the local health authorities and not school personnel due to coordination of efforts and contact tracing requirements.

## Visitors

Due to the pandemic, visitors to our school buildings will be limited to essential business. All visitors will be screened and may be denied entry. If you need to pick your child up from school, please come to the school entrance and ring the doorbell. Office staff will escort your child out of the building to you.

# Additional Considerations

## After School for Kids (ASK)

ASK will be available this year. It will run differently than in past years. Parents must sign their child up a week at a time. The cost of the ASK program this year is \$50 per week regardless of the amount of time or the number of days your child attends. All students will be screened daily with a temperature check prior to entering the program. Students will be kept in groups smaller than 10 and siblings will be grouped together when possible. Students will receive a snack each day. Parents should pick up their child as soon as they get off work. Students must be picked up no later than 5:30 PM.

## Kindergarten First Day

The first day of school for kindergarten students will be Wednesday, August 19th. Kindergarten students will report to school at 9:00 AM on the 19th. Parents will not be allowed in the school building. However, the kindergarten teachers will meet all of their students outside, in front of the school, at 9:00. This will allow parents to be with their child the first day of school while they have their temperature taken and meet their teacher. We understand the importance of parents taking their children to school on the first day of kindergarten. We hope this delayed start will help ease some anxiety for both parents and students. Students will be able to ride the bus to school on August 19th if needed.



## **Extracurricular Activities**

Extracurricular activities will be limited to protect against the spread and transmission of COVID-19. More information about any offerings will be provided to you at the building level.

## **Social Emotional Resources**

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the mental health of all of our stakeholders - teachers, staff, community members, students and their families. School personnel are trained to monitor and address the mental and emotional wellbeing of students and staff members. Individual and small group counseling will be available for students at school. Please contact your building principal for more information.

## **Family Assistance**

We recognize that this is a complex and difficult time for many of our families. If your family requires extra assistance in relation to any basic need such as food, clothing, school supplies, etc., please contact the building principal who will work with you to locate assistance. Please do not hesitate to ask for help – we are here to help you through this difficult time.

We are 'prepared for the unexpected' and will stay in close contact with you as the situation develops. In the meantime, we are excited to welcome your children back to school!

Please know that you have our thanks and gratitude. The end of last school year was especially difficult for parents who were required to oversee remote learning from your homes. We recognize your efforts and we are prepared to meet your child's needs. We cannot predict exactly what lies ahead of us, but know that we are committed to you and your child. We will get through this together.