



HILLSBORO CUSD 3 Hillsboro Junior High

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 8:10am to 1:45pm.
- ❑ Student schedules will be followed with modified times. Both core academic and encore 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 3:45pm 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.

Registration

All returning students should register online via Skyward Parent Access beginning Monday, July 27th. If you need your Skyward Parent Access login credentials, please contact the HJHS office at 217-532-3742.. New students and those unable to register online can register in-person at HJHS on Friday, July 31st from 10:00am to 6:00pm.

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

We 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 riders will be dropped off on Summer Street, north of HJHS. Since they will be screened prior to boarding the bus, these students will enter the north door of the ramp addition and proceed directly to their assigned PRIDE class. Students dropped off by parents/guardians or students who walk/bike to school should not arrive before 7:45am. This is to ensure safe and effective procedures and supervision. Before exiting the vehicle and upon arrival, students should be masked. Parents are asked to remain in vehicles. Each student's temperature will be taken by a staff member prior to entering the building. HJHS will have 3 screening areas, one for each grade level. 6th grade - east side of the cafeteria, circle drive area; 7th grade - old gym doors/old ticket booth area; 8th grade - south end of the building, outside 8th grade hallway. Once a student has been screened, he/she will report directly to his/her assigned PRIDE class.

Dismissal

Bus students will be dismissed at approximately 1:45pm and walk home/pickup students immediately after buses clear. Bus students will be dismissed from their PRIDE classes by groups. Group A will be dismissed followed by Group B 30-45 seconds later. Bus students will exit the building through the door closest to their bus pickup. Walk home/pick up students will also be dismissed by groups and exit the building in the following fashion: 6th grade - main office doors; 7th grade - old gym/ticket booth doors; 8th grade - south exit doors of the 8th grade hallway.

Chromebooks

Online, remote learners who are in need of a device need to contact the HJHS office as soon as possible (532-3742). A plan for device pickup will be developed and communicated to those families ASAP. Remote learners will need internet access and a device as there will be no paper packets provided. Each in-person student will have a device to carry throughout their day to each of their classes.



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

Breakfast will be served in 3 locations. 6th grade - Dragon Cafe; 7th grade - old gym; 8th grade - new gym. All breakfasts will be bagged and ready for students to pick up in their designated area. Students will pick up their breakfast upon entry to the building and then proceed to their assigned PRIDE classroom.

School Supplies

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

Recess/Outdoor Activities

Students will be allowed to remove their masks when outdoors while maintaining social distancing. Playground equipment (basketballs, etc.) will not be used at recess.

Lunch

HJHS will utilize 3 grade level lunch modules and all lunches will be in the Dragon Cafe. 6th grade will eat fifth hour, 8th grade sixth hour and 7th grade seventh hour. Each grade level will be split in half; one half to the cafe for lunch and the other half to recess. While at lunch students will maintain social distance to the greatest extent possible and no more than 3 students will be allowed at a table. Each student will have the same assigned seat during lunch everyday. Students will clean and disinfect tables after eating and prior to being dismissed.

Enforcement of Expectations

The COVID-19 pandemic is requiring a focus on others over self which can be, especially for young children, a difficult developmental concept to master. Please discuss the concept of ensuring the safety of others/self with your child prior to the start of the school year. Refusal to comply with safety regulations such as washing hands and wearing a mask or intentionally compromising the safety of others will not be tolerated. These will result in discipline.

Lockers/Personal Items

Lockers will not be used. Each student should bring a book bag/backpack to school, but additional personal items such as purses, bags, etc., are discouraged.

Water Fountains

The district is adding water fountains with bottle stations at all buildings this summer. 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.



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. 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, band) 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 all school buildings.

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. Each building is taking steps to choreograph student movement with the goal of maintaining social distancing.



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, who will potentially need additional social-emotional support.

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.

Additional Considerations

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.