

9-10-2020

Smithton Families,

I hope that you are doing well considering all of the trials and difficulties that we have all had to face. I am hoping that this news will lighten your spirits and serve as a glimmer of hope. After consulting with the ST. Clair County Health Dept. and the St. Clair ROE, as well as reviewing the Covid cases in our area, we would like to share our plan of returning our students to in-school learning using the hybrid schedule.

We are all very excited to have students back in the building but it will take a bit of time for our teachers to transition from full remote to the hybrid plan. I have included the dates and grade levels for returning to a hybrid plan.

***Please note that there is one change to our original hybrid plan. Instead of Wednesday being a full remote day, Fridays will be our full remote day. By moving the remote day from the middle of the week to the end of the week, students will have a more consistent flow of attendance. Our teachers felt very strong that this would work out extremely well for their students. Please pay special attention below to the days that our A and B groups will be in attendance. If this poses a problem in your planning, give us a call and we will do our best to accommodate your needs.**

September, 21 – Students in grades K-3 will begin the A/B group plan. Students in the A group will attend school on Mondays and Wednesdays, while students in the B group will attend on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Fridays will be used for a remote learning day for all students. Teachers will push out assignments and be available to meet via Google in the morning. Students will attend a full day of school on their group's days.

September 28 – Students in grades 4-8 will begin their A/B groups plan. The students will follow their schedule for either the A group or B group, attending full days of school.

Considerations for Parents When Considering In-Person versus Remote

Our teachers will be working very hard with our in-person students throughout each day, Monday-Thursday. They cannot be expected to spend their evenings teaching the remote students. We will have our support staff and RTI teachers checking in with our remote students to provide support, but the level of teacher time spent making videos will be much smaller than in our full remote state. All parents are being offered the in-person learning, so if a parent does choose to keep their child home, we want to make sure that those parents are aware that the intense instruction that they are currently receiving will look different. Teachers will still be sending lessons to their students but the continuous meetings with the students throughout the day is not possible. Our teachers have gone over and above to provide detailed instruction and videos to explain their expectations and lessons. They simply will not have enough time in the day to do two full time teaching positions.

We are allowing students to make the switch to in person learning if they had previously opted for remote even when our students return. Please consider having your child attend the in-person instruction if possible so they can get the most out of each day. We all know that there is no replacement for in-person learning.

A few reminders:

If your child is experiencing any of the Covid symptoms, please keep them at home, even if they are the slightest of symptoms such as a cough, sore throat or runny nose.

Students will need to return with their devices, Chromebook or iPad, and some of their school supplies.

Lunches will be served but we will continue to deliver to those who are not in attendance that particular day. One hot lunch choice and one cold lunch choice will be offered to those students who attend in person learning. Cold lunches will be delivered to students during their off days.

Masks are required to be worn in the building at all times, although students will be taking breaks from wearing masks during the day by going outside for a few minutes throughout the day. We all need a break from masks occasionally.

Students will go into the cafeteria for lunch but we will practice social distancing to our best ability.

More information and details will be shared next week. We are just so excited to share this incredible news with you at this time.

Have a wonderful evening!

Mrs. Norton, Principal

Updated
9/10/2020

**Smithton CCSD 130
School Reopening Plan**

Guidance in this plan comes from recommendations and requirements from the Illinois State Board of Education, the Illinois Department of Public Health, and the St. Clair County Health Department. This plan was completed in consultation with parents, staff, union leadership, administration, and district legal counsel.

As guidance continues to change this plan is subject to change.

- We are preparing for a transition back to the school into a hybrid/blended learning plan.

Hybrid (blended in-person/remote learning)

Students will be divided into A and B groups. A hybrid model would allow half of the total number of students to be in the building each school day. In a typical week students will attend from **8-3 p.m.** two days a week on their assigned days and remote learn on the other three. On the days students are at home they will complete their assignments sent home as directed by the remote learning plan.

A group students with the last names A-K will attend school on Monday/Wednesday

B group students with the last names L-Z will attend school on Tuesday/Thursday

All students will remote learn on Friday to allow our teachers to plan and respond to students/parents. This will also give us the ability to clean the building in preparation for students again on Monday. Cougar Care will still be available after school for those students that are in attendance that school day.

**In-Person Learning Plan
Summary**

- All Students and Staff will be required to wear face coverings/masks when in the building.
 - Face masks should fully cover the mouth and nose.
 - Students may wear their own masks/facial coverings including cloth masks. Neck warmers or neck gaiters are no longer allowed to be used according to updated CDC guidelines.

- We are working to provide each student with one cloth mask and have back up disposable masks on hand.
- Teachers will make time throughout the day for “mask breaks” allowing students to get outside, social distance, and remove their masks.
- Exemptions to the face covering requirements can only be made with a physician note.
- In accordance with the Illinois Department of Public Health and Illinois State Board of Education requirements, students must be screened each day for COVID-19 symptoms and other criteria prior to entering a school building.
 - Parents must screen their child each day prior to sending their child to school.
 - If your child does not meet all the criteria, you must keep your child at home and notify the school of your child’s absence.
 - By sending your child to school, you are certifying you have screened your child and he/she meets all the criteria to attend school.
 - COVID-19 symptoms include: temperature over 100.4 F, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, chills, fatigue, muscle and body aches, headache, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, congestion or runny nose, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.
 - Random temperature screenings will take place throughout the day.
 - Additional screening criteria is listed below*.
- All district staff will also be required to do a self-screening each day prior to entering the school.
- Visitors or parents entering the office will also be asked to review the self-assessment questionnaire. Visitors answering yes to any of the screening questions will not be able to access the office or building. As a result, parents will not be allowed to enter the building to drop their child off and the use of regular classroom parent volunteers will be temporarily suspended.
- Students and staff will go to the nurse whenever they are feeling symptomatic.
- Students and staff that are systematic will be required to leave and may not be allowed to return without consultation with the school nurse.
 - Students must be fever free for 72 hours (without medication) before returning to school. Covid symptoms and self-quarantining requirements may require staff or students to be absent for up to 14 days.
 - In the event that a direct Covid case occurs in the school building we will immediately contact the St. Clair County Health Department to initiate their recommendations and contact tracing. Closing part or all of the building for a period of time may be required to allow for self-quarantine and cleaning protocols. At that time school would continue via our remote learning plan.
- Whenever possible, the number of students in one area will be limited to less than 50.
- Upon entering the building students will be directed to their homeroom classrooms.
- Whenever possible, classroom seating will be arranged to maintain social distancing.

- Teachers will work to ensure sharing of supplies and materials is kept to a minimum or sanitized between uses.
- School buses will attempt to be kept to 50 or less students. Parents are asked to self-certify their children to be symptom free before boarding the bus. Students will wear a mask on the bus. Bus drivers will wear a mask whenever students or others are present. Buses will be disinfected daily. If you indicated that you were able to find other transportation to lower the numbers of students on the bus, it is much appreciated.
- All high touch areas (door handles, bathrooms, water fountains, playground equipment etc.) will be sanitized as often as possible.
- Hand washing and sanitizing will be required on a frequent basis. Each classroom will have a hand sanitizing dispenser and multiple places in the hallway feature dispensers.
 - Students and staff will be directed to sanitize in/out of classrooms.
- All grade levels will stagger restroom use and class change dismissal to avoid multiple classes in the hallway at one time as much as possible.
- Students will eat lunch in their classrooms or in appropriate spaces with 50 or less students.
 - As a result, parents/grandparents will no longer be able to eat with their children.
- Recess will continue outside for students. No more than 50 students will be allowed in one area (blacktop, grass, playground structure).
- Cougar Care after-school care will continue. We ask parents to please self-assess symptoms prior to entering the building and wear a mask to pick up your child. Sanitation and social distancing protocols will continue during Cougar Care.
- Field trips will not be scheduled at this time.
- All student school assemblies will not be held at this time.

***Criteria to Attend School – Checked Daily**

- My child does not have a temperature over 100.4F.
- My child is not taking fever-reducing medicines, such as those that contain aspirin, ibuprofen or acetaminophen, in order to reduce his/her fever.
- My child has not had close contact or cared for someone with COVID-19 within the past 14 days.
- My child has not returned from travel outside the United States or on a cruise ship or river boat within the past 14 days.
- My child has not been directed to self-quarantine by a healthcare provider.
- My child has not been directed to self-quarantine by the County or State Department of Public Health.
- No one within my child's household is currently being evaluated for COVID-19 symptoms or waiting on the results of a COVID-19 test.
- My child does not have any of the following symptoms:
 - Chills
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue

- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore Throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Remote Learning Plan

- ❖ All students will be provided access to a device. K-2 will be sent home an IPAD. 3-8 will be able to take home their chromebooks. If students do not have access to the internet please let us know and we will get paper materials to you and/or work towards getting you a mobile hotspot.
- ❖ Students will be required to check in daily with their teachers for assignments and complete the work that is sent out. Teachers may send assignments up to a week at a time. Regular assessment, feedback, and grading will still occur.
- ❖ Teachers will be available via e-mail or other class used apps for support, as well as scheduled meetings for face to face discussions. Typically, teachers will be available to respond to parents and students each school day from 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Teachers are cognizant of parent work schedules and will attempt to have time during both the day and evening for direct assistance. Each grade level will be sending out information as to how remote learning may look different for their classes.
- ❖ Special Education accommodations and services will continue during this remote learning time. Special Education case managers and service providers will be available as directed by a students IEP.