

Somers District #29 Safe Return to School Plan

The purpose of this plan is to provide high quality in-person instruction to as many of our students as possible. Student safety and well-being is a top priority, and we won't be able to remain open if we don't keep our staff healthy, therefore we must take steps to prevent the spread of Coronavirus in our schools. The success of our plan depends greatly on the support and cooperation of families.

Family Responsibilities

Parents will screen their children for symptoms of illness each day before sending them to school. If children have any of the following symptoms they should be kept at home – fever (of 100.4 or higher) or 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, and/or diarrhea. Parents will need to have a plan for childcare if their student becomes symptomatic. For children who become symptomatic at school we need parents to have a plan that enables them to be picked up within an hour of a phone call.

For as many as possible we ask parents to transport their children to school, and to arrive no earlier than 8:05. (Doubling the number of bus routes in order to provide transportation for all students who would normally ride would be a major burden on our transportation partners and create a significant tax burden.) If parents have children at both Lakeside and Somers they will drop off Lakeside students first.

Students must wear masks whenever they are on school grounds. When students are in their classrooms the masks may be replaced with face shields provided by the District.

Safety at School

Montana Behavior Initiative (MBI) expectations will be explicitly taught and include safety procedures such as hand washing, wearing PPE properly, and cleaning procedures of space and PPE etc. Teachers will wear face shields and/or masks. Students will wear face shields in class. Students will wear masks at all other times.

Students will clean their spaces before school dismisses (wipe down desks/tables, clean PPE etc.). Students will wash their hands before dismissing from school and switch from a face shield to a mask. Masks will be worn on the bus for bus riders. Masks will be worn until the student is in parent's vehicle if parent is the transportation source. Parents will be encouraged to wear masks when dropping off and picking up students. Only staff and students will be allowed in school buildings, with the exception of Kindergarten parents who may bring their students into the gym, provided the parent is masked as well.

Student supplies will not be for community use. Manipulatives, pencils, pens, glue etc... brought in by students will be used personally by students until it is deemed safe to go back to a community use plan.

There will be no field trips until the mask mandate is lifted. There will also be no Open Houses or community use of school facilities. We will provide a video virtual tour before school begins.

At **Lakeside Elementary** classes will be self-contained. Differentiation will happen within this setting without walk to read or math occurring until there is evidence that this method of differentiation is safe to implement. Specials will be taught in the classroom setting. Breakfast and lunch will be distributed and eaten in the classroom. Students will wash/sanitize their hands every hour, after recess, and before eating snack/breakfast/lunch. Additional hand washing stations will be provided to facilitate this. Recesses will be by individual grade level and properly distanced. Students who show signs of illness will go to a designated location to receive support until their parent picks them up.

At **Somers Middle School** upon arrival students will go to their home room (if eating breakfast they can grab and go). Students will go to each class periods 1-7. Before leaving a classroom students will sanitize their desk and chair. Lunch will be distributed in groups less than 50 at a time. Groups will be assigned by homerooms. Students will wash/sanitize their hands upon entry of every class and before eating snack/breakfast/lunch. All classrooms will have specific seating charts to adhere to every day throughout the entire period. Passing periods will be staggered and there will be no bathroom breaks during passing. There will be no PACE/QUIL/Clubs this year and no Nutrition Break (in class snack). Students will pick up a Chromebook for the day in Homeroom, and return it before dismissal. During return all computers will be sanitized and plugged in. Dismissal times will be staggered by grade level.

Lockers will only be for the beginning of day, lunch and end of day. There will be lunch carts at each door for those who bring a cold lunch. Student's binders will be kept in each classroom. The only items that should move from class to class are their Chromebook, a book and pencil/pen pouches.

Remote Learning

Remote Learning will be available for those who do not wish to return to in-person instruction. Parents who choose Remote Learning for their children will stay with that mode through at least the first trimester (December 8th). The District will provide training for students and parents in how to use Google Classroom and other tools. Parents and students will be required to sign an agreement regarding acceptable technology use and etiquette. A Chromebook will be provided for each remote student. Teachers will be available online and by phone from 8:00-3:30, and will respond to emails within 24 hours. Teachers will not be able to provide tech support for students during classes. There will be real time meetings with students at least twice per week. Instruction in Reading/Language Arts, Math and Counseling will be provided for students in Kindergarten through Fourth Grade. Students in grades 5-8 will also have Science and Social Studies, and optional Physical Education and Art. Middle School students will attend real time Zoom classes.

Please carefully consider whether you will have your child(ren) return to school in-person or continue with Remote Learning. Students who return to in-person instruction must absolutely comply with mask and face shield requirements. Those who are unwilling to comply will be placed in Remote Learning to preserve the health and safety of others at school.

Parents will be contacted by the school to discuss their preferences beginning Wednesday, August 12th.

As previously stated, the success of this plan depends on the support and cooperation of our families. Tell us what you think.

If you have questions about this plan please call Joe Price at 857-3661, or email joe.price@somersdist29.org.

To submit comments to the Board of Trustees please complete our online [form](#).