



Ashby Public School

Preparing Students for Success

ISD #261

Ashby Public School

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WEBSITE

www.ashby.k12.mn.us

August 7th, 2020

Good evening Ashby families:

Should this message get cut off or you would like a copy of the information presented, you can access it on our school website under COVID-19.

On Wednesday, August 5th, the Ashby School Board approved our Return to School Framework which outlines how the district will handle the three scenarios laid out to us by Governor Walz, the Minnesota Department of Education, and the Minnesota Department of Health. All families who have registered for Seesaw would have been sent a copy of this document yesterday. Families not registered for Seesaw yet can access the document on our website or any of our social media accounts.

Though our framework for education has been approved, the district has not made a decision on what scenario or scenarios we will be starting the school year with yet. That decision will be made public on August 24th. The decision to wait has been made due to the high number of active COVID cases in the county at this time. If we would make a decision now, based on current numbers and recommendations from the MDE, we would be starting the school year in a more restrictive scenario than we would like. All school districts, including Ashby, will evaluate the active cases in the county every two weeks. Decisions will need to be made throughout the school year using this data to determine which scenario the school can be in at any given time.

This is important for families to know as case numbers will fluctuate in counties throughout the year, meaning schools across the state will find themselves navigating the different scenarios throughout the year and even though a school may state they will start the school in one scenario, doesn't mean that in a couple of weeks or months, they will be required to change and operate under a new learning model.

In our Return to School Framework, families should note that even in a hybrid model, elementary students will spend four days a week in in-person or a modified in-person learning environment. We know that finding childcare is difficult and the district wanted to ensure that our youngest and most educationally vulnerable students spend as much time in school with teachers as possible.

Over the course of over a hundred years that Ashby School has been graduating students, this community has seen many challenges and obstacles that asked students and families and school staff to make tough decisions, make sacrifices, and to rework the way we think about education. Through all of this, Ashby School has survived, adapted, and come out stronger than it did before. The community of Ashby and its families have trusted this school, its staff, administration, and school board to make these changes to provide the best education for its students.

We ask for you to continue to put trust in us as we navigate yet another set of challenges that we will see throughout this school year. Know that we will always be looking at what is best for our students' educational and social well-being throughout this process while following the guidance we are being given from MDE and state and local health organizations.

We want to make sure that all families have a strong understanding of how this school year will begin and operate throughout the year. To accomplish this, we will be scheduling early entrance conferences with all Ashby families for September 8th, instead of the traditional open house. Elementary families will meet with each individual classroom teacher to learn about classroom expectations and how to navigate the different learning platforms along with ensuring families understand policies that are being put in place to ensure the safety of our students and staff. Middle School and High School students and families will meet with one teacher to discuss the same content but geared towards middle school and high school expectations and learning platforms. Middle school and high school families will have all of their students meet with one teacher at one time as the information being given will be the same. We will be scheduling those conferences in the near future.

We will continue to update our students and families as more information and guidelines are given to us from state and local officials. Please continue to be patient and know that the decisions being made continue to be for the best interest of all of our students, staff, and community.

Until next time, be happy and be healthy.

Respectfully,

Jon Moore
Principal
Ashby Public School

Al Niemann
Superintendent
Ashby Public School