



Ashby Public School

Preparing Students for Success

ISD #261

Ashby Public School

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www.ashby.k12.mn.us

July 30th, 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.

Today, Governor Walz, members from his cabinet, and health officials from the Minnesota Department of Health presented to Minnesotans a framework for schools reopening and operating during the 2020-2021 school year.

Throughout the summer, district staff and administration have been working hard developing a framework to educate our students under the three scenarios that families and students can expect throughout this upcoming school year, with Scenario 1 being: In-person Learning, Scenario 2: Hybrid Learning, and Scenario 3: Distance Learning.

In all three scenarios, student and staff safety was at the forefront of our planning as well as ensuring that our most vulnerable and youngest students receive as much in-person learning that we can offer within the guidelines given to us by state officials. The current plan outlined by the Minnesota Department of Health and the Minnesota Department of Education shares these ideals.

We are unable to share with families at this time how we will be open at the beginning of the school year because the way we open will be dependent on the number of cases within a fourteen-day period prior to the start of the school year. By the end of next week, a digital copy of our learning models will be sent to families through Seesaw, Instant Alert (text), Social Media Accounts, and our school website. Within this document, families will be given a guide of how Ashby School has taken steps to ensure proper cleaning procedures, protocols for students entering our buses and school buildings, steps to take when there are potential cases of COVID-19 in our building or at home, modified schedules within the different scenarios and outlines for student and family support.

Though a lot of work has gone into the current plan, staff and administration will need to make some modifications due to the new guidelines that were given to us today. These changes will allow for more flexibility than our current plan offers in the sense that in some scenarios students could expect more in-person learning than we had originally planned for. Planning the logistics on how this all works together takes time, but we know families are anxiously waiting for answers so they can start planning their work and family schedules.

A special board meeting is scheduled for next Wednesday at 6:00 pm where our plan can be finalized by the school board. After that time, the information will be presented to families. As I stated a couple of weeks ago, our goal is to keep as much consistency as we can with programming, communication, technology, and instruction throughout the different scenarios.

With all of these new changes and challenges to our framework in education, we feel that it is necessary to give families an opportunity to learn from teachers what to expect in class, how to navigate the different learning platforms, access grades, and student information systems and to be able to contact staff as needed. Because of this, our back to school platform will look a little differently this year.

Last year, elementary families participated in Early Entrance Conferences instead of Open House. We feel that the same model would be beneficial to families with students of all ages and all grades. We are currently in the process of shaping what early entrance conferences will look like for all of our families so students, parents, and guardians will feel prepared to take on this next school year.

More information and scheduling of these conferences will be coming soon.

Again, expect an outline of the three scenarios and school guidelines next week. Until then, be happy and be healthy.

Respectfully,

Jon Moore
Principal
Ashby Public School

Al Niemann
Superintendent
Ashby Public School