

Nashville CCSD #49 Return to School Plan

- Nashville #49 is planning on starting on August 12 with all students in the building every day. We will dismiss at 2:30 every day until further notice.
- A remote learning option will be available for students with documented health concerns, students living with someone who is at high risk, or other reasons. Please note that the state guidelines for remote learning will be much different than last spring. Students will be responsible for participating in class sessions and submitting homework. A meeting with an administrator is required prior to starting the program. Wednesday, August 5 is the deadline to sign up for remote learning.
- **It is very possible that the state could change the guidelines at any time. We have already dealt with several changes and we anticipate more changes in the future. We are advising parents to be prepared for anything based on guidance from the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Department of Public Health.**

CDC Recommendation

Here is part of an article from the Centers for Disease Control on reopening schools:

Schools are an important part of the infrastructure of our communities, as they provide safe, supportive learning environments for students, employ teachers and other staff, and enable parents, guardians, and caregivers to work. Schools also provide critical services that help meet the needs of children and families, especially those who are disadvantaged, through supporting the development of social and emotional skills, creating a safe environment for learning, identifying and addressing neglect and abuse, fulfilling nutritional needs, and facilitating physical activity. School closure disrupts the delivery of in-person instruction and critical services to children and families, which has negative individual and societal ramifications. The best available evidence from countries that have opened schools indicates that COVID-19 poses low risks to school-aged children, at least in areas with low community transmission, and suggests that children are unlikely to be major drivers of the spread of the virus. Reopening schools creates opportunity to invest in the education, well-being, and future of one of America's greatest assets—our children—while taking every precaution to protect students, teachers, staff and all their families.

This is the link to the article in its entirety - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/reopening-schools.html>

Academic/Remote Learning

Our goal for starting the year would involve basic introduction of all subjects to our students with the understanding that they missed an entire quarter of in-person instruction. Our teachers have been working with each other to best address the loss of learning from last year. They will start out more slowly than in the past. In conjunction with introducing material, our teachers will also spend time

preparing the kids for remote learning. They will expose the kids to **Google Classroom**, which is our chosen on-line platform. The best thing about **Google Classroom** is that it is aligned with Pearson, our on-line textbooks. Teachers will be able to use the on-line text through **Google Classroom**, assign work through it, grade assignments with it, and record grades on it. You already have access to your child's gradebook through Skyward. This is one more layer that will allow you to see how your child is doing in their classes.

One of the main differences will be that the teachers will switch classrooms and the students will stay put. Third through eighth grade are departmentalized and the kids have switched rooms. We are planning on having the teachers at those grade levels switch and the students will stay in their homeroom.

We are going to do our best to keep our normal schedule intact. The kids will still have daily P.E. The main difference is the majority of that will be done outside while the kids are socially distanced. When we are forced to be inside due to weather we will have the necessary space to socially distance properly. We will not have regularly scheduled recess, but the teachers will have the ability to take their kids outside when it fits into their schedule in order to get a recess period or two. Computer classes will take place in their classrooms instead of the computer lab. Library will still take place for K-4 in their classroom. Art classes will be taught in their classrooms. If your child receives Special Education services, Title I reading or reading improvement services, or RTI interventions those will take place in the traditional setting. Those classrooms will be disinfected between groups.

If you are not comfortable with your child receiving face to face instruction, you have the option to request remote instruction. Your child will receive instruction virtually either through the Google Classroom platform or through videos posted by their teacher. All students on remote instruction will still be responsible to complete all work assigned by their teacher whether it be through the Google Classroom platform or through learning packets. Your child will be expected to complete all of the assignments and all work will be graded unlike last year. We are able to keep track of attendance with Google Classroom. If your child is participating in remote learning they will be required to check in through Google Classroom. Failure to do so will result in an unexcused absence.

In order to do remote learning, you will need to contact Mr. Brink at 327-3055 ext. 203 or Mr. Fairbanks at 327-4304 ext. 201. If you request remote learning for your child or children, it will be done on a quarterly basis. This means that your child would have to do remote learning for the entire first quarter. If you choose to send them to school you would not be able to do so until the beginning of the second quarter. **You must notify and meet with Mr. Brink and/or Mr. Fairbanks by Wednesday, August 5 if you want your child or children to participate in remote learning.**

If and when we return to remote learning, building wide instruction will be continued through Google Meets, which is part of Google Classroom. As was mentioned earlier, children will be responsible for completing the assigned work and will be graded on it this year unlike last year. We will provide all students with a computer for distance learning.

Health/Safety

We have been addressing the health and safety concerns with several upgrades to our cleaning and sanitizing throughout the building. We are in the process of marking our hallways with arrows to help

the kids socially distance in the hallways. The bathrooms will be disinfected hourly. Touchpoints around the building will be sanitized on a regular basis as well. We have installed hand sanitizer stations throughout the building. Everybody entering the building will have their temperature checked. If they have a fever of 100.4 or higher they will have to leave or be quarantined in our nurse's quarantine area until parents can pick them up. We have covered the water fountains at school. Your child or children are welcome to bring a water bottle to school.

We ask that this year you are diligent with checking your children at home before sending them to school if they are not feeling well. The most common symptoms for Covid-19 are:

- Fever 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
- Diarrhea

Please do not give your child an over-the-counter fever reducing medication in order to send them to school. Doing so could expose all of the students, faculty, and staff they come in contact with to whatever illness they may have. If you have kept your child home because they were sick in the morning, please refrain from bringing them in late.

School Nurse

Our nurse, Mrs. Redenius, will be stationed in the art room. This will give her extra room to quarantine potential Covid-19 cases. There will be sectioned off cubicles in there to keep students separate from each other.

We cannot stress enough the need for you to be diligent in checking your child's health before coming to school if they are complaining of not feeling well. Please keep them home if they have a fever, diarrhea, are vomiting, or are complaining of multiple symptoms listed above. We understand that there will be times when a student is suffering from allergies and is able to come to school. We will be relying on parents to assist us in these circumstances.

Breakfast/Lunch

When we first started planning we were afraid that the kids would have to eat in their classrooms. We believe that we have a plan in place that will allow them to have lunch in either the cafeteria, gym, middle school library, or stage. We will have two lunch periods on each side of the building. Two grade levels will go to lunch for 30 minutes at a time on the middle school side and we will have one lunch with two grades and one with three grades on the primary side. We will put tables up in the primary

school gym to accommodate lunch and tables in the middle school gym and on the stage. Breakfast will be served in each cafeteria and the students that do not eat breakfast will sit in the gym until 8:00 when they will report to their classes. Lunch will be eaten with their homeroom classmates. There will be no intermingling of class rooms at lunch. The students will not have access to a microwave to heat their lunch.

All of the areas where the kids eat will be thoroughly disinfected upon the completion of the meal.

Buses

Buses will still run daily. If you choose to send your child on the bus they have to self-certify once boarding the bus. This means that the bus driver will ask them if they are feeling sick. If they respond that they are, they will be quarantined in a seat at the front of the bus. All other student will sit a couple of rows back. Once reaching school any quarantined students will go immediately to the nurse's station to be evaluated. If it is determined that they are ill they will stay in the nurse's office until somebody arrives to pick them up.

We understand that there are students that absolutely have to ride the bus. That is why we are continuing to run them. If you have the ability to bring your child to school and pick them up, please do so.

Sports/Music Program

There has not been a determination made by the Southern Illinois Junior High Athletic Association at this time for fall sports. We are holding our tryouts for baseball and softball. If the SIJHSAA cancels the sport season we will be bound to follow suit.

We have an excellent music program and hope to continue it in some fashion. We have talked to Mrs. Pytlinski about making changes to the current program. She may be able to hold band practices outside weather permitting. If she is unable to go outside she may be able to hold scaled back practices. She will be able to have sectional practices on a smaller scale than in the past. The same holds true for the chorus program. She will be able to hold practices on a smaller scale.

Masks

We understand that the subject of masks is a very controversial one at this time. As we prepare to begin school all children and adults are required to wear masks on the bus and in the school. They can remove the masks to eat and to go outside. **Our teachers will make sure to give the children mask breaks throughout the day.** They will not wear the mask the entire time they are in the building. Please understand that we are required by IDPH guidelines to have the children and adults in masks while they are here.

There are masks available at school if your child doesn't have one or needs a replacement during the day.

Jr. Hornets

As long as we are able to have students in the building Jr. Hornets will be available to our pre-k to 6th grade students after school. We will most likely have to utilize multiple sites throughout the building due to size limitations.

Communication

If and when we return to remote instruction, teachers will communicate with you via e-mail, different communication apps such as Remind or Class Dojo, or phone calls. It will be important for you to communicate with the teachers as well. If you don't understand something, please contact them. We are hopeful that the teachers will be able to be in the building this time. They were only allowed in the building on a limited basis last year. This certainly hindered their ability to communicate with you.

Open House

Based on the state guidelines we will not be able to hold open house for all grade levels this year. We will still have open house for kindergarten. Mrs. Schnitker's open house will be on Friday, August 7 from 5:00 – 6:00, Mrs. Diekemper's on Monday, August 10 from 5:00 to 6:00, and Mrs. Hill's on Tuesday, August 11 from 5:00 to 6:00. You will receive more information on open house from your child's teacher. Pre-k will also have an open house. They will notify all parents about that at a later date.

Everybody else will receive a notice form your child's teacher before Wednesday, August 12. Each grade level will send out some type of information about the beginning of school. Unfortunately you will not have the opportunity to bring your child's supplies to school before the first day of school.

Miscellaneous

We are fortunate to have a large group of volunteers. Unfortunately, we will not be able to allow that this year.

Visitors will also be restricted. If you are picking up a sick child we will have you come to the receptionist desk to sign them out. If your child is returning from a doctor or dentist appointment, you can sign them in at the desk.

When the students go outside for recess or P.E. they will not be allowed to use the playground equipment or any balls. We would have to disinfect the playground every time the kids were done with it and we do not have the manpower to do that. Children are not allowed to share balls and even if they are assigned a ball or bring their own the risk of them playing with somebody else is too great.

Birthday treats and class party treats will have to be a pre-packaged treat this year. Hostess, Little Debby, or treats like those will have to be sent for class parties.

Conclusion

This entire process has been agonizing for us. We have heard the phrase "we want our kids to be able to be kids" multiple times this summer. We want them to be able to be kids as well. We are doing everything we can to make this as normal as possible for them. Please be assured that all of us at

Nashville CCSD #49 have your child's best interest at heart. We want them to receive the best education possible while still keeping them safe.

We also understand that there are a number of different opinions about what is the right way to deliver education this year. It is our belief that, with the age of student we have here, we need to have as much in person instruction as possible. If we are able to start the year as we hope we will do our best to prepare the kids for remote instruction while still making their day as educationally relevant as possible.

In addition to our strong feelings about in person instruction being the best for the kids, we also want to put as little burden as possible on our families. You were all put in a terrible situation last year and we want to try to ease that burden as long as possible. We will do our best to make you aware of any changes to our programming as soon as we are aware of them.

Please understand that we are working with a moving target. We wanted to give you the best information we have right now. This could all change in a day or two. The information contained in this document is our most up-to-date plan based on state guidance. **THERE IS A VERY GOOD CHANCE IT WILL CHANGE BEFORE SCHOOL STARTS.**

We hope that this helps answer any questions you might have. We are sure that there are more questions and would be happy to answer any of them. Don't hesitate to call Mr. Brink at 327-3055 ext. 203, or Mr. Fairbanks at 327-4304 ext. 201.