

## **FREEBURG COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED DISTRICT 70**

The Freeburg Back-to-School Committee sent out a survey requesting feedback from both parents and staff members for the purpose of collecting information regarding back-to-school protocols. The data collected from this survey was used to develop the **Return to School Plan**. The following data was obtained from this survey:

**Parent Survey:** 450 total responses

No masks/Optional-Recommended: 84%

Yes: 16%

### **Breakdown of “Yes” to Masks by Grade Level:**

- K- 9
- 1- 7
- 2- 16
- 3- 17
- 4- 15
- 5- 14
- 6- 16
- 7- 11
- 8- 3

### **Top Five Safety Precautions the District Can Put in Place:**

- Regular sanitizing
- Promote handwashing
- Encourage students to bring water bottles
- Limit sharing of supplies and materials
- Limit visitors

### **Best method to communicate to parents:**

Email- 99%

Social media- 15%

### **Top Five Additional Academic Supports Requested:**

- Allow sports and extra-curricular events for a sense of normalcy
- Allow more time for socialization opportunities: field trips, lunch, recess, etc.
- Allow for tutoring opportunities when learning loss or deficient areas are identified- Also, offer extended learning opportunities for students when needed
- One-to-one and/or more technology in the hands of the students
- Younger students, students requiring speech support, etc. require instruction where students can physically see the formation of the words

### **Top Three Additional Social Supports Requested:**

- Identify needs social and emotional needs of students and provide supports through social worker, character education, and universal supports
- Allow time for fun activities in school for the mere reason of socialization, redeveloping friendships, and interaction with peers
- Small group or whole group instruction on anti-bullying, positive self-image, getting along with others, being a part of a group, being new to Freeburg, etc.

### **Staff Responses: 66 Responses**

No masks/Optional-Recommended: 94%

Yes: 6%

### **Top Five Safety Precautions the District Can Put in Place:**

- Regular sanitizing
- Promote handwashing
- Encourage students to bring water bottles
- Limit sharing of supplies and materials
- Limit traffic in the building

### **Best Method Staff Prefers to Communicate to Parents:**

Email: 97%

Social Media: 22%

### **Top Five Additional Academic Support Suggested:**

- Tutoring broken up by grade levels
- Increase RTI supports and begin interventions right away (push in during class for Tier I and pull-out for Tier II and III)
- Increase small group interventions
- Increase technology across the district
- Training on FastBridge and use of data obtained from program in the classroom to address learning loss, strengths, and deficiencies in learning

### **Top Three Additional Academic Support Suggested:**

- Increase social work groups (conflict resolution, character education, etc.)
- Develop a process or structure for identification of social/emotional needs and detailed supports
- Allow for more availability of the social worker to help students adjust to being back in school

**Recommendation from the Back-to-School Committee and Administration based on the abovementioned survey responses and local infection rate at this time:**

**The Illinois State Board of Education has given local control regarding safety protocols and procedures to each individual school district. Understanding that local COVID mitigations will dictate district decision making, at this time, the school district will allow masks to be *optional for all* but recommended for all persons who are unvaccinated ages 3 and older. This recommendation can change at any time based on local factors.**

**The State Board does require students to wear masks on all school transportation vehicles.**

### **RETURN TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION PROTOCOLS:**

#### **CLEANING AND PRECAUTIONS IN THE BUILDING:**

1. Water bottle stations will continue to be used throughout the building. The actual water fountain will not be open. Students are required to bring their own water bottles. Cups will not be provided during the school day.
2. Extra cleaning will take place at 10:00 a.m. each day by the custodial staff.
3. Students/Staff exhibiting fever or symptoms will be required to wear a mask to prevent spread of infection unless alternate diagnosis is given.
4. Wiping down of desks and classrooms will continue in addition to extra cleaning time.
5. The school nurse will assist with teaching proper hand washing protocols to students.

#### **VISITORS IN THE BUILDING:**

1. To minimize traffic in the building, each classroom will be limited to no more than 1 volunteer per week. This time must be pre-scheduled with the teacher and the name given to the office ahead of time. All volunteers must self-certify and limit contact with students.
2. All classroom visits must be pre-scheduled with the teacher and are at the discretion of the teacher.
3. Classroom parties are allowed unless metrics dictate otherwise later in the year. No more than 4 party volunteers per classroom and need is based on teacher discretion.
4. Volunteers for field trips will be limited to the minimum number required based on the location of the field trip and age of the students.
5. The building may be used by outside groups with the understanding that a change in mitigations may alter the building use at any time. Procedures for proper sanitizing after building use will be shared with these groups upon approval.
6. Open house will follow the following schedule to minimize large groups gathering in the hallways or classrooms:
  - a. Pre-K - Third Grade: Thursday, August 12 and Friday, August 13 by appointment only. Attendance is limited to parents and child only. No siblings or other relatives will be permitted. **\*\*\*NOTE: Fourth through Eighth grades will have regular attendance days of school.**

- b. Fourth - Eighth: Friday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> from 12:30-3:00 during the following times:
  - i. 8<sup>th</sup> - 12:30
  - ii. 5<sup>th</sup> - 1:00
  - iii. 7<sup>th</sup> - 1:30
  - iv. 6<sup>th</sup> - 2:00
  - v. 4<sup>th</sup> - 2:30
- c. Pre-K through Kindergarten will phase in student attendance on Monday, August 16<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, August 17<sup>th</sup> with full attendance on Wednesday, August 18<sup>th</sup>. More information is forthcoming from Mrs. Fark and the kindergarten teachers.

### **WALKERS/DRIVERS/PARENT DROP OFFS:**

1. Students are allowed to ride to and from school in different ways (i.e. mom drop off and ride bus 2 home, dad drop off and grandma pick up, ride bus 3 to school and mom pick up). *SEE BUS PROCEDURES FOR MORE INFORMATION ON BUS RIDERS*
2. Students may be dropped off at the front doors no earlier than 7:45. At which time, your child will be directed to a designated area.
3. When dropping off or picking up your child, please allow time for a designated adult to assist them with crossing the parking lot. To ensure appropriate safety for all students, no students are to cross through the lot without proper assistance.

\*Do not send your child to school if s/he registers 100.4 or exhibits any COVID like symptoms. If a child enters school with symptoms or a fever, s/he will be given a mask immediately. *Masks will be available in the nurse's office, but each child is responsible to have a mask with them if needed.*

**BUS RIDERS:** *If you are planning to ride the bus, you must notify the bus garage (618-539-9822) by August 12, 2021.*

1. All students must notify the bus garage by **August 12<sup>th</sup>** if their child is riding the bus. This includes drop-off and/or pick-up only transportation as well.
2. All students and drivers are required to wear a mask while riding the bus per *ISBE guidelines*.
3. Parents must use the self-certification process to ensure their child is temperature and symptom free before placing them on the bus (*SEE SELF-CERTIFICATION PROCESS FOR MORE INFORMATION*).
4. Seating on the buses will be determined by the driver.
5. Students must sit in the same seat and must remain in the same seat for the entire trip.
6. All students must ride the same bus each day due to limited space and capacity guidelines. If a bus rider needs to ride a different bus, prior approval must be obtained.
7. Eating and drinking is prohibited on the bus.
8. All buses will be cleaned daily.

\*Do not send your child to school if s/he registers 100.4 or exhibits any COVID like symptoms. If a child enters school with symptoms or a fever, s/he will be given a mask immediately. *Masks*

will be available in the nurse's office, but each child is responsible to have a mask with them if needed.

### **SELF-CERTIFICATION PROCESS**

All students and staff will be required to participate in the self-certification process of health before entering campus. **NOTE: Parents do not have to enter any information into TeacherEase this school year. Before sending your child to school or upon enter the building, students, visitors, and staff are certifying to the following:**

- ✓ They do not have a temperature over 100.4 F.
- ✓ They are not taking fever-reducing medicines such as aspirin, ibuprofen, or acetaminophen.
- ✓ They have not had close contact or cared for someone with COVID-19 within the past 14 days.
- ✓ They have not been self-directed to quarantine by a healthcare provider, or by the County or State Department of Public Health.
- ✓ They do NOT have any of the following symptoms:
  - o Chills, cough, fatigue, headache, sore throat
  - o Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
  - o Muscle or body aches
  - o New loss of taste or smell
  - o Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea

### **ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL:**

1. Arrival times and procedures:
  - a. Primary Center:
    - i. 7:45 a.m.- All students directed to the gym (class line) or cafeteria
    - ii. 8:05 a.m.- All students released to individual classrooms
  - b. Grade School:
    - i. 7:45 a.m. - All students to blacktop and/or cafeteria
    - ii. 8:00 a.m. -All students to lockers then to homerooms
    - iii. 8:10 a.m. -Announcements
2. Dismissal times will be staggered to reduce congestion
  - a. Primary Center:
    - i. 3:00 p.m.- Kindergarten
    - ii. 3:05 p.m.- First Grade
    - iii. 3:10 p.m.- Second Grade
  - b. Grade School:
    - i. 3:07 p.m.- Walkers/Pick Up
    - ii. 3:10 p.m.- Bus

### **BREAKFAST:**

1. All students will eat breakfast in the cafeteria.

2. Students will sit at assigned tables to reduce contact.
3. Students will be dismissed by staff to reduce congestion.
4. Students may not share food.

### **LUNCH:**

1. Grade levels will be eating together in the cafeteria.
2. Students will be assigned tables to reduce congestion.
3. Students will be dismissed from lunch by staff to reduce congestion.
4. Students may not share food.

### **HALLWAY:**

1. Lockers will be used.
2. There will be no marked directions in the hallways.
3. Staff will monitor the hallway for congestion and plan transitions accordingly.
4. Movement in the hallway will be staggered to reduce congestion.
5. Water bottle stations will be available. Stations will be sanitized on a regular schedule. NO CUPS WILL BE SUPPLIED BY THE SCHOOL.

### **CLASSROOM:**

1. Classrooms will be organized to space students apart to the greatest extent possible while retaining educational function.
2. Small group work, labs, projects, etc., are allowed and the teacher will work to maintain social distancing during classroom interactions.
3. Classrooms will be cleaned and disinfected daily. Emphasis will be placed on high touch surfaces and common areas.
4. Students will rotate classrooms in the upper grades.

### **RECESS/OUTSIDE:**

1. Playground equipment will be sanitized, and precautions put in place to minimize spread infection.
2. Playground equipment is open for students to use.
3. Students will enter the building by grade level to reduce congestion in the hallway.

### **RESTROOMS:**

1. Staff will monitor restrooms to deter large numbers.
2. K-8 classrooms will develop restroom schedules throughout the day.
3. 6th/7th/8th staff will monitor restrooms during passing periods to reduce congestion and maintain contact protocols.
4. Students will be instructed in proper hand washing and social distancing guidelines for restroom use.
5. Restrooms will be sanitized regularly by custodial staff.

### **OFFICE:**

1. Visitors to school will be extremely limited.
2. No visitor should enter the building if s/he is exhibiting any fever or symptoms. Contact the office if you need to pick up your child to avoid contact.
3. Staff will notify the nurse before a student is sent for medical attention.

### **GENERAL SAFETY AND WELLNESS**

1. Temperature checks and symptom screenings will be discontinued. By sending your child to school, you are certifying your child is symptom and fever free.
2. Athletic programs will run as normal with no limit on attendance and fees assessed at home games.
3. Field trips will be allowed based on area metrics and location of the field trip. Masking may be required based on location of field trip.
4. Locker rooms may be used during and after school hours.
5. **NO HOMEMADE FOOD MAY BE BROUGHT INTO SCHOOL FOR PARTIES DURING COVID. ONLY PRE-PACKAGED, UNOPENED FOOD WILL BE ALLOWED** (*food from a bakery or grocery store is acceptable*).
6. Frequent handwashing and hand sanitizing is key to help prevent the spread of COVID. Staff and students will be encouraged, and time will be allotted to do so throughout the day. Hand sanitizer will be provided, but please send some with your child if available.
7. Classrooms will be cleaned and disinfected daily. Emphasis will be placed on high touch and common areas. Restrooms and common areas will be cleaned multiple times throughout the day.
8. Students should bring clear or see-through water bottles. Water stations are available for students to refill their water bottles throughout the day. Storage of water bottles during the day will be at the discretion of the individual teacher.
9. All students and staff will be required to participate in the self-certification process (*SEE SELF-CERTIFICATION PROCESS*).

### **NOTIFICATION OF COVID-19 TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS**

1. If a positive school case is reported to the district, a notification will be sent out to parents. No identifying names will be given for the privacy of students or staff.
2. Follow all procedures as per the IDPH and St. Clair County Department of Public Health.
3. Assist the St. Clair County of Public Health contact trace as necessary to ensure the safety of all students and staff.
4. If a student is placed in quarantine, s/he will be offered remote instruction on a limited basis. As soon as a student is placed in quarantine, the parent or guardian must contact the school office immediately. At which time, the corresponding classroom teacher or a designated teacher will reach out to set-up the remote learning process based on the number of days designed by the health department.
  - a. Students will be given the same number of days to return missed work as s/he is out due to the absence (i.e. 5 days of absence = 5 days to return work). All work not completed in this time frame will be considered missing/incomplete.
  - b. If your child's teacher utilizes packets, work will be available after 2:00 p.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the absence and each subsequent day following.

## **PLAN REVIEW**

This plan is fluid and can be altered at any time throughout the school year. The Back-to-School Committee will meet no less than two times during the 2022 school year. All stakeholder input will be considered during plan review, but local mitigations will dictate immediate changes as needed. Any changes to this plan will be promptly communicated to parents, staff, and students via the preferred method of communication as identified in the parent survey.