

MENNO BACK TO SCHOOL PLAN

August, 2020

These are truly extraordinary times! With the onset of the Covid – 19 pandemic, schools across the country have been looking for guidance on how to best operate in what I would call the “New normal.” People stand on both sides of the issue when confronted with what to do. I know doing absolutely nothing is irresponsible and sets a tone for future failure if and when the COVID-19 pandemic comes to Menno and the surrounding communities. After careful consideration and communication with school leaders, health officials, and the public, the following document has been developed.

The Menno School District’s School Board and Administration plan to start school on **Tuesday, August 18, 2020** with face-to-face instruction. Precautions will be taken and are outlined in the following document.

Parents/Students will need to keep in mind that circumstances and an influx of positive COVID-19 cases in our community may force plans to change in a very short amount of time. We hope that it does not happen like it did back in March.

Planning has been focused on three themes:

- What is best for our students and their families?
- What is best for our staff?
- What is best for our community?

Explanation for the Back to School Plan:

- Calendar Explanation – The latest school year calendar is online for your information. Please keep in mind that there may be changes during the school year. If there are changes, they will be posted on the school website, Facebook Page, and notification made through the Infinite Campus system.

The structure of the document attempts to “walk through” what a school day would/could look like for a student and what changes may need to be in place for his or her safety. The “walk through” is broken down into the following categories:

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS
STUDENT MORNING PREPARATION
TRANSPORTATION
STUDENT ARRIVES AT SCHOOL
DELIVERY OF INSTRUCTION
LARGE GROUP SETTINGS
CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT
STUDENT OR STAFF HAS SYMPTOMS
STUDENT OR STAFF WITH A POSITIVE TEST
END OF THE DAY DISMISSAL
EXTRACURRICULAR

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS:

- **ALL PLANS are contingent on the spread of COVID-19.**
- **School will begin Tuesday, August 18, 2020 with face-to-face instruction with strategies in place to protect students, staff, and families.**
- Online classes will be available. All staff will have online plans ready to go.
- It’s difficult to make definite plans because the plan needs to be flexible enough to an ever-changing situation.

STUDENT MORNING PREPARATION:

- Families MUST do a daily health check at home. If a student is showing any of the following symptoms: Fever (100.0 or above); Cough; Shortness of Breath; Sore Throat; Loss of Taste. PLEASE do not send you student to school.
- Please contact the school if your child WILL NOT be attending school that day because of symptoms, or because they have tested positive for COVID-19. If you do not contact the school, and your child is absent, the school will continue the practice of calling families.

TRANSPORTATION:

- Transportation is being offered (**but physical distancing is not attainable**) in school transportation vehicles.
- Seating on the bus will be by family, and students MUST stay in their **assigned seats**.
- Students will use hand sanitizer upon entering the bus.
- **It is RECOMMENDED** that students wear face masks, but is not mandatory. Disposable masks will be available on each bus.
- If a student takes a mask, we ask that they keep it for the ride home also.
- Busses will be sanitized after each route.
- If families will not be utilizing the bus service please contact Menno School.

STUDENT ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL:

- **Masks are Strongly Encouraged** for students K-12. The school has purchased masks for every student to use. They will be turned in daily for cleaning.
- Students will be encouraged to keep physical distance as much as possible, but this may not always be attainable in the school setting.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms, lunchroom, office, etc. Students will have their temperatures taken daily as they arrive and enter the building at the North and South entrances.
- Students will be kept in their cohort as much as possible.
- The Breakfast Program will be available with social distancing policies in place.
- Elementary students will go directly to their classrooms if not at breakfast.
- MS and HS students will go to dedicated rooms if they do not eat breakfast.
- DO NOT bring/drop off students at school until 8:00 am.
- Parents/Guardians: We ask that you not enter the school in an effort to limit people in the building as much as possible.
- Visitors will not be allowed into the building without prior approval from administration

HAND SANITIZERS AVAILABLE & WHERE:

- Will be placed in every room and other common areas.
- PK – 5 handwashing will be built into the daily schedule.
- Students will sanitize entering classrooms at all levels.

WATER FOUNTAINS:

- Water bottles are encouraged! Please put your name on them and do not share.
- Only the water bottle fillers will be operational.
- If any student needs a water bottle, please contact any staff or your Principal.

BATHROOM BREAKS:

- PK - 5 teachers will have it scheduled throughout the day.
- 6 – 12 will operate on a pass basis like normal.

FREQUENCY OF HANDWASHING:

- PK - 5 will have extra handwashing times scheduled and staggered throughout the day.
- MS and HS students will be encouraged to wash their hands and hand sanitize as often as possible.

CHANGES IN LEARNING WILL BE DETERMINED THROUGH CONSULTATION WITH SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE LOCAL HEALTHCARE FACILITIES.

PARENTS/STUDENTS: MUST KEEP IN MIND THAT PLANNING IS VERY FLUID! EVENTS, CIRCUMSTANCES, AND INFORMATION FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH MAY CHANGE PLANS QUICKLY!!

LARGE GROUP SETTINGS:**Lunch**

- Students will have their temps checked by administration at lunch.
- Lunchroom occupancy will be reduced. Seating and schedules will be adjusted for physical distancing.
- Salad Bar will not be used at this time, but will be available through the serving line.
- Grade levels will be staggered.
- K-5 will eat in lunchroom with social distancing in place.
- HS will eat separate from the MS.

CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT:**PK – 12 Classroom**

- Space will be utilized as much as possible to allow as much physical distancing as possible.

Surface Cleaning

- Surfaces will be cleaned/sanitized throughout the day.
- Hand sanitizer dispensers have been placed in every room.
- Teachers have final say in their classroom on mask rules.

Recess

- Elementary will still have their normal recesses, but we will limit the number of kids together at a time as much as possible. **subject to change

Music, Band, PE, Computers

- Will be as normal with precautions taken.

STUDENT OR STAFF HAS SYMPTOMS:

- Symptoms – Short Term – I.C.E. the student or staff
 - ISOLATE and mask them immediately
 - CONTACT the parents/guardians
 - EXIT him or her as quickly as possible

STUDENT OR STAFF WITH POSITIVE TEST:

- Department of Health or Parent/Guardian notifies school of a positive case.
- The student, teacher, or staff must isolate for 10 days.
- A student or staff may return if they have followed Department of Health guidelines.
- Department of Health will work with the school to make sure proper steps are taken.

STUDENT OR STAFF WHO MAY HAVE BEEN EXPOSED:

- Staff and students in room(s) that have had close contact with someone who has had a confirmed, positive test, must quarantine for 14 days because of the close contact.
- There may be a possibility that a teacher and a classroom could quarantine for 14 days and the rest of the school remains in operation. Department of Health guidelines will be followed.

END OF THE DAY DISMISSAL:

- Once the bell rings, students will report and return masks to their first period, or elementary teacher.
- Students will be dismissed to the bus by grade level.
- Bus rules will be followed as outlined earlier under transportation for those riding school busses.
- Non bus riders will be dismissed after busses are loaded.

EXTRACURRICULAR:

- **Menno School will be following all guidelines and recommendations set forth by SDHSAA.**
- South Dakota High School Activities Association has released their formal plan for state sponsored events and activities and activities will start at scheduled.
- You can read those SDHSAA guidelines on their webpage sdhsaa.com