Superintendent Update

District Update from Traci Gavenda

Friday, August 6, 2021

Ashley Community Schools
Home of the Bears

Back to Learning Plan

General Information

What will the schedule and calendar look like?
Ashley Community Schools will have students attend 5 days a week, full-time with classes beginning at 8 a.m. and dismissal will be at 3 p.m.

When is the first day of school?
The first day of school will be Monday, August 23, 2021.
When will the Back to School Open House be held?
Back to School Open house will take place on August 19, 2021 starting at 5:00-6:30 p.m. We have some exciting changes coming to our Open House event. Watch for more information.

What is the cost of breakfast and lunch for the 2021-2022 school year?
We will be offering free breakfast and lunch to all students enrolled in Ashley Community Schools. However, ala carte items (i.e., a bag of chips, cookie, etc.) will have to be purchased.

Will a Chromebook be assigned to each student?
Yes, Ashley Community Schools is a 1:1 district.

When is school picture day?
School picture day is September 30, 2021

COVID-19 Guidelines

Are face masks required at school?
Face masks will be optional and provided by parents/guardians.

Will my child be required to get the COVID-19 vaccine in order to attend school?
No. The COVID-19 vaccine is not listed on the required School Vaccination List. For more information please see:

Will Ashley Community Schools quarantine students?
No, all quarantines will continue to be issued by the health department.

Will students athletes need to be tested for COVID-19 to participate?
No. Currently, as of July 30, 2021 the MDHHS and the MHSAA has lifted all testing requirements.

Will student athletes need to wear face coverings during practices or sporting contests?
No. Currently this isn't a requirement by the MDHHS or the MHSAA.
Will you separate students who are vaccinated from students who are unvaccinated? 
No. Vaccination status is a personal choice.

What will our instructional model look like? 
Students will attend school full-time five days per week. The school day will begin promptly at 8 a.m. and students will be dismissed at 3 p.m.

Are facemasks required on the bus? 
Yes. The CDC has an order requiring masks be worn by all individuals on the bus.

Where will the students enter the building this year? 
Students will enter using the same entrances as they did last year.

Will contact tracing continue? 
Schools are required to report communicable diseases to their local health department within 24 hours. Positive or probable COVID-19 cases will be reported to the Allegan County Health Department following our Communicable Disease Board Policy 8450 and Michigan Law Act No. 368 of the Public Acts of 1978. For a complete list of reportable diseases, please see the following document: 2021 Reportable Diseases. When there is a positive or probable case within a classroom, an exposure letter will be sent home to parent(s) just as we do with other communicable diseases such as chicken pox.

Will students be in cohorts in the classroom or on the playground? 
No. As of June 22, 2021 MDHHS had discontinued all gathering limits for residential and nonresidential settings.

Will the school continue to adhere to the cleaning protocols implemented last school year? 
Yes. We will continue to disinfect and clean the buses and have extra cleaning occurring throughout the school day. We will continue to promote handwashing, covering coughs and sneezes.

Will health screenings for students and staff continue throughout this school year? 
Parents/Guardians and staff are encouraged to monitor for COVID symptoms. If students or staff are displaying COVID symptoms they will need to stay home.

Please Note: 
Ashley Community Schools will continue to monitor the recommendations and requirements provided by the Mid- Michigan Health Department and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. The school will continue to evaluate the 2021-2022 COVID-19 policies to ensure the health and safety for all students.