

STRIDE Academy



COVID In-Person Learning School Plan

In response to COVID-19

2022

Updated 8/18/2022

INTRODUCTION

First and foremost, we understand our duty to maintain safe and healthy conditions for all employees and students. We are closely monitoring data and taking steps that are in proportion to current, known risks and in line with up-to-date, official guidance to protect staff and students from COVID-19 exposure. The guidelines referenced in this plan are based on guidance from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE). Regular updates will be made to this plan based on information provided by MDH, MDE, and applicable federal, state, and local agencies.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

STRIDE Academy is committed to excellence in all that we do. In order to ensure the continued commitment to our mission and vision as a district, the following principles will be at the center of our decision-making and response.

- Nurture, value, and respect each person in a safe and welcoming environment
- Cultivate and model meaningful relationships
- Personalize the learning environment by offering students a choice and voice in their education
- Enrich the learning experience with a rigorous, relevant, and engaging curriculum
- Inspire lifelong and independent learners in an ever-changing world
- Unify and strengthen our partnerships with families and community.

Overview

In this scenario, STRIDE staff will organize furnishings and monitor students to create as much space between all in the building during the day. In this scenario, the 6' foot social distancing expectations are not enforced in classroom spaces.

Table of Contents

[Section 1: Health & Safety](#)

[Section 2: Students & Families](#)

[Section 3: School Staff](#)

[Section 4: Essential Visitors & Volunteers](#)

[Section 5: School Based Operations](#)

[Section 6: Instruction](#)

[Section 7: Social Emotional Well-being](#)

[Section 8: Resources](#)

[Section 9: Q/A](#)

[Section 10: Public Comment](#)

Section 1: Health and Safety (COVID-19)

Students, Families, Staff, and Community Members

The health and safety of our students, staff, and families are of the utmost importance at STRIDE Academy. It is critical that students and their families follow the guidance set forth in this plan to ensure a safe and healthy remainder of the 2022-2023 school year.

Please contact the following COVID - 19 Response Team members with questions regarding this plan.

Tanner Bechtold - COVID-19 Coordinator

Angie Lichy - k-4 Principal/COVID-19 Coordinator Backup

Eric Skanson - Executive Director

Nathan Schwieters - 5-8 Principal

Cleaning Measures (Face Coverings, social distancing as possible)

- Classrooms will be cleaned daily by custodial staff. Schedule will be flexible as we return at different times. Cleaning supplies will meet the standards as determined by the CDC.
 - Envirotech will start in the morning and visit K-2 rooms in room order and extend through grades 3-8.
 - Teachers will be provided with cleaning supplies to use.
 - Hallways, common areas, gymnasiums, and media center will be cleaned daily by custodial staff.
- To limit exposure, students will be encouraged to utilize Ms. Heather for book selection, use of online book requests
- Offices, workrooms, and conference rooms will be cleaned before and after each use by office staff
 - High Use Areas will be cleaned several times daily.
 - Shared Devices will be cleaned after each use by staff or students before being placed in the carts.

Universal Screening

- Staff and student symptoms should be monitored from home before arriving at school
- STRIDE will be screening staff and students for symptoms upon arrival.
- If a staff member or child is experiencing any of the [CDC identified symptoms for COVID 19](#), they must stay home 24 hours fever free (without the use of fever reducing medication) **and** COVID-19 symptoms have improved.
- Staff will follow [Decision Tree Clarification from MDH](#) for action steps when a student or staff member is showing symptoms of COVID-19 at school or at home.

Hygiene Practices

- Students entering the building will be required to sanitize or wash their hands
- Students will be required to sanitize or wash hands prior to using any shared materials, supplies, or devices
- Hand sanitizer dispensers will be provided in every classroom, pod, hallway, and offices.

- Soap dispensers and touchless paper towel dispensers will be provided at every classroom and bathroom sink
- Staff will monitor and refill all dispensers routinely.
- Staff will schedule handwashing before and after lunch, after using the bathroom, after recess and before dismissal daily
- Staff will supervise the use of hand sanitizer by students
- Staff will ensure students with sensitivities are provided time to wash hands in the classroom as an alternative to hand sanitizer
- Staff will provide training, modeling, and reminders for students and effective hygiene practice posters in high traffic areas such as bathrooms, above the sink, at the entrance to the classroom, etc.
- Water fountains will be shut off for the foreseeable future. We are purchasing water bottles for all students to have at their spots, bringing them home weekly for washing.

Face Coverings

Masks are optional at STRIDE Academy.

Types of allowable face coverings include: Paper or disposable mask, Cloth face mask, Scarf, Bandanna, Gaiter, Religious face covering

- A face shield (a clear plastic barrier that covers the face) allows visibility of facial expressions and lip movements for speech perception and may be used in addition to a face mask. If the face mask impedes part of your instructional process, please discuss your concerns with your building principal.
- For optimal protection, the face shield should extend below the chin anteriorly, to the ears laterally, and there should be no exposed gap between the forehead and the shield's headpiece.
- Face covering expectations posted on all entrances
- Staff will partner with families in teaching, modeling, and reminding students of proper face covering procedures
- Nursing staff will develop a personalized plan for students who need alternative PPE based on confirmed medical, behavioral or social emotional needs
- Staff will maintain an extra supply of face coverings for students who forget them

Monitoring and Excluding for Illness

- See [CDC recommendations for quarantine](#)

Section 2: Students & Families

Social Distancing will be encouraged and expected when possible.

Students will be taught on proper social distancing in all classes

- We will limit the small instructional groups as possible, while utilizing technology (Zoom) when appropriate.

Face Coverings

- Student [face coverings](#) are optional
- Parents or guardians of students for whom a face covering is not tolerable due to developmental, medical, or behavioral health concerns should work with the nursing staff to create an individualized plan

Student Materials & Cleaning

- Student supplies will be used individually and stored in the student desk or cubby.
- Student will avoid sharing electronic devices, books, toys, and other games or learning aids when possible and staff will ensure cleaning between uses.
- Staff are encouraged to put manipulatives in cleanable containers as much as possible (ziplock bags, etc.)
- Practice modeling and using frequent hand washing and sanitizer when using communal supplies and materials (pencil sharpener, etc.)

Student Appointments

- Students who have regularly scheduled appointments may sit in the office until their ride has arrived
- For parents/guardians picking up their child for an appointment, please call 320-230-5340 child will walk to your vehicle

Family Communication & Partnership

- Staff will communicate with families and students regularly using Seesaw, Google Classroom, Remind, Skyward, virtual meetings, and email/phone.
- Staff will meet with student groups to gain information about their learning experience and gather feedback.

Section 3: School Staff

Team Meetings and Staff Collaboration

- Staff will clean hard surfaces following meetings.
- When possible, meetings can be held virtually

Lunch

- Microwaves will be placed in common areas (cafeteria), to allow for staff to use safely. Microwaves and mini refrigerators with three-prong plugs will be allowed in classrooms for the time being.

Staff Absences

- When staff know they will be absent, please put in AESOP.
- Michele Kockler will help coordinate a sub for you if it is after 6:00am the current day.. Please make sub plans.
- We will need to look at shifting to DL if we are unable to staff the building appropriately; thank you for your measures to prevent this.

Cohort Teaching

Students will remain in respective wings of the building with students as much as possible throughout the day.

Library

- Heather Peterson will send a Google doc to teachers to sign up for library times.
- Library passes will be made and only two students at a time are allowed to visit the library.
- Also keep offering online requests to students and Heather can deliver them to the classrooms.
- Book returns: one on the middle school side and the other in front of the library doors.
- If teachers want to keep library books to return in the classroom, please email Heather to pick them up.

Section 4: Visitors and Volunteers

Visitors and Volunteers

- Volunteers will self-screen for temperature and COVID-19 related questions will be asked
 - Essential volunteers include but are not limited to Math and Reading Corps Members, Promise Fellows, Greater Minnesota counseling, etc.

Health Protocols

- Any essential visitor or volunteer who is experiencing COVID-19 like symptoms is asked to stay home
- Any essential visitor or volunteer who has a temperature of 100.4°F or above or has been in close contact with someone identified as having COVID-19 will not be allowed to enter STRIDE

Section 5: School-Based Operations

Arrival/Dismissal & Transportation

- Students riding school bus transportation will be dropped off and picked up in the regular bus drop off area in the West Lot in front of the school.
- Students using parent/guardian transportation will be dropped off and picked up in the Circle Drive of East Lot.
- Upon arrival, K-4 students should go to East Gym and 5-8 students should go to the West Gym to gather their breakfast and be released to class at 8:15 AM.

- Upon dismissal, teachers will walk students to their buses. See below for the schedule of dismissal times will be given to each grade level group. Students being picked up will wait in the West Gym to be walked out to their vehicle by staff.
 - Dismissal times
 - Primary Wing, by Kindergarten exit
 - K at 3:00
 - 1 at 3:05
 - Main exit
 - 2 at 3:00
 - 3 at 3:05
 - Intermediate Wing by 4th grade exit
 - 4 at 3:00
 - 5 and 6 at 3:05
 - Middle School by middle school exit: 3:10

School Attendance

In-person attendance will be taken using the in-person protocols used pre-COVID.

Schedule

- The building master schedule also has a tab for the specialist rotation schedule. All teachers will have PM duty to get students to their PM dismissal spots (bus, parent pickup, Kidstop shuttle to Oakhill) unless other arrangements have been made with Angie Lichy/Nate Schwieters.

Bathrooms

- K-1grade should use the bathrooms in their classrooms or #172 (the bathrooms by the music room)
- 2nd -4th should use the bathrooms #208 and #207 (the bathrooms in the middle of their hallway)
- 5th - 6th should use bathrooms #139 and #138 (the bathrooms in the hallway to their classrooms)
- 7th-8th should use bathrooms #127 and #130 (the bathrooms by the west gym hallway)

Breakfast/Lunch

- Students will wash their hands before and after they eat
- 5-8 students will put their coats/backpacks in their lockers and then head to the cafeteria for breakfast.
- Lunch Staff will serve Breakfast and Lunch in the cafeteria with para supervision.
- Birthday treats: not allowed for the time being.

Sensory Room

- Sensory room will reopen with a maximum of 8 people allowed in at one time (depending on equipment in the room) Sanitizing all used items before and after use will be required.

Lockers

- Students will use lockers though will do so with teacher dismissal.

Clubs

- Clubs will be able to be conducted in a classroom. Classrooms will be selected as available for appropriate size to space students.

Section 6: Instruction

Instruction

- High expectations for learning and high levels of support will be offered by all teachers
- Teachers will communicate learning targets for each lesson every day, then design creative, engaging lessons and assess student mastery of the learning target

Distance Learning

- Distance learning may be implemented if needed for safety.

Instructional Technology

- Teachers will continue to utilize technology for grades K-4 and Google Classroom for grades 5-8.
- Students will continue to use technology in preparation for other scenarios if needed.
- Students will retain the one-on-one devices for use in in-person. If needing to transition to distance learning, Chromebooks/iPads will be sent home.
- SWIVL technology will be used with BL students' support. If you need support from the technology department to get set up, please contact Steve Swenson. If you are not planning to use the SWIVL in your classroom, specialist teachers need to be notified so they are aware when planning their in-classroom lessons.

Assessment for Learning

- Teachers will use NWEA, FastBridge, Unit Assessments, and other formal and informal assessments to determine each child's learning needs

Formative Feedback

- Provide feedback to students on where they are in relation to meeting the standard to encourage growth.
- Teachers will use regular formative assessments to ensure knowledge of student instructional needs

Intervention & Academic Supports

- Staff will provide ongoing support through Tier 1 and Tier 2 interventions offered throughout the day
- School staff will evaluate all current plans for accommodating students with special health care needs and update as needed to decrease their risk of exposure to COVID-19

- ML/SpEd services will continue in homeroom classrooms (unless otherwise notified), with distancing as possible,
- Special Education teachers: please update your classroom teachers and paras with the changes to learning needed for in-person learning. (Can use planning days time to collaborate)

Multilingual Learners (ML, formerly known as English Learners or EL)

- Work with your ML teacher for extra time with your higher needs language students.
- ML will plan to be in the classroom with teachers the first week back for each group and will help classes get routines down. (Suzy will continue to teach.) If you would prefer ML to just come in during the scheduled time and teach right away, please let your ML teacher know.

Grading

- Start with a clear definition of which standard(s) is being assessed for students and families to understand. We will continue to provide accountability with flexibility and compassion.

Equity

- Staff will ensure a safe learning space for all students to participate and learn
- Staff will use PBIS strategies to build a classroom and school culture of inclusion
- Staff will value the cultural experiences and backgrounds of all students.
- Staff will accommodate individual learning differences and prioritize accessibility
- Staff will acknowledge and utilize parents and guardians as educational partners to improve student success.

Section 7: Social/Emotional Well-Being

PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Supports)

- Led by the PBIS Team, staff will teach and model PBIS strategies and activities with students
- Staff will also continue to access SEL and Personalized Learning strategies to continue to nurture the SEL and academic needs of the students and staff

Section 8: Resources

- [What to do if you have close contact with a person with COVID - 19](#)
- [What to do if you are waiting for a COVID-19 test](#)

Section 9: Q/A

- [CDC recommendations](#)

Section 10: Feedback from the parent survey on Return to Learning Plan
