The New Viking Way
2020-2021 School Re-opening Plan
Symmes Valley Local Schools

Introduction

The Administration and Staff of Symmes Valley Local Schools are excited to be able to see our students soon. Throughout this plan, we hope to address issues which will keep our students and staff safe using multiple layers of protection, yet allow us to provide the learning environment we have all missed for several months now.

We realize, and ask that our stakeholders realize as well, that no plan is going to be perfect and there will be an element of risk that cannot be eliminated. Due to a host of reasons, we may need to change our plan to better serve the needs of our students and staff. Therefore our plan will be a “living” document and we hope that all will understand the need to remain flexible as we re-open the school buildings. It is our intent to follow the Ohio Department of Health and local department of health guidelines. We also ask that our students, staff and Viking families be respectful of policies and procedures that have, and will be put in place to ensure a safe environment. We strongly urge everyone to be understanding to others, as we are continuing to learn how to deal with this pandemic.

Finally, we ask parents and guardians to understand that there are health risks involved in returning to school. Likewise, the emotional and instructional risks increase each day we are unable to return. Again, we ask for your patience, understanding, and flexibility as we work our way through opening as safely as we can do responsibly. Plans are subject to change based upon new information and guidance from state and local officials.

Learning Options

We are both anxious and excited to see our students once again in our classrooms, but we understand that some will need to choose another option that best fits the needs of their family. At this time, we will offer two options. The first option will be In School with students attending 5 days per week. A second option will be for parents and students to choose a district Remote Learning option. Parents/Students/School Officials will enter into a Remote Learning agreement outlining expectations. *Remote Learning cannot fully replicate the experience found with In School instruction, so we ask that you please consider this option very carefully.* Once committed to the Remote Learning, families will have the option to return to In School instruction at the beginning of each nine weeks grading period. Those who choose the remote learning option will need to notify their child’s/children’s building administrators by **August 3rd, 2020.** Also, should we be directed to close by state and local authorities, we will transfer all instruction to remote learning.

Calendar

We intend to welcome students back to school on **Monday, August 24th, 2020.**
**Safety**

Various safety measures have been implemented throughout district property to keep our students and staff safe.

Under the guidance of the Lawrence County Health Department, all students must wear (school appropriate) masks, face coverings or face shields while at school, including when on school transportation. Exceptions to this rule must fall within the Ohio Department of Health stipulations and documentation will be required to be on file at the students’ school building. Those exceptions may include: Facial coverings in the school setting that are prohibited by law or regulation; Facial coverings that are in violation of documented industry standards; Facial coverings that are not advisable for health reasons.

Masks, face coverings, or face shields will be listed on the school supply lists but SVLSD will also assist in providing masks, and/or face shields.

We will strive to eliminate the need for volunteers until further notice.

Visitors will be screened and limited to applicable areas.

Staff are **required** to wear masks, face coverings, or face shields while on campus, unless published exceptions allow otherwise.

Temperatures WILL be taken upon arrival to school.

Lockers WILL NOT be used. The temporary suspension of the book bag policy will remain in place until further notice. For the safety of students and staff, student book bags will be subject to search if deemed necessary by administration.

When possible, some classes may be held in alternative locations on campus to further promote social distancing and minimize movement.

We will attempt to hold necessary meetings via phone or virtually when possible.

Enhanced safety protocols will include more frequent cleaning and sanitizing before, during, and after the school day.

**Transportation**

Masks, Face coverings, or Face shields will be **required** for school transportation.

Every attempt will be made to distance students as much as possible, but no more than 2 students will be allowed per seat unless they are members of the same household.

Buses will be disinfected after each trip.

Seating charts will be used at all times.
Hand sanitizer will be available on the bus.

Students driving to school will need to obtain a parking pass from the High School Principal.

**The School Day**

Social distancing will be observed at all times if possible.

Upon arrival, students and staff will have their temperature taken at one of the stations located in designated entrances to the buildings.

Breakfast will be served either in the classroom or “grab 'n go” style.

Lunch will be structured in a way to maximize social distancing and may be served in locations other than the cafeteria, if needed.

Disposable items will be utilized by the cafeteria staff and often, prepackaged items will be served.

Movement in each building will be minimized to respect social distancing and contact guidelines.

Every effort will be made to structure student and staff movement in a single direction when possible.

Parents who choose our remote learning option will need to notify their child’s school(s) by August 3rd.

We strongly suggest that students choosing the remote learning option also take advantage of the breakfast and lunch service.

**Technology**

Chromebooks or other technology devices will be assigned to students in designated grades and to all remote learners.

Hot-spots will be established at select locations if available.

Before Students receive school issued Chromebooks they will need to have their Device Agreement form signed and turned in to building administrators.

Remote Learners will have the ability to contact Technology Coordinator at designated times.

Remote Learners with High Speed Internet can join an online class with the Technology Coordinator to communicate any technology issues.

**Staff/Student Health**

In addition to daily health self-assessments, students and staff are expected to conduct daily health checks (including taking temperatures) prior to arriving at school or before entering the bus.

Anyone with symptoms or a temperature above 100 degrees should stay home.
If there is a confirmed case, the school nurse will collaborate with the local health department and the family as appropriate and in accordance with all state and federal regulations.

A student determined to have symptoms will be assessed by the school nurse and if needed will be placed in a designated quarantine area of the building under adult supervision until they can be picked up.

The Symmes Valley Local School District will cooperate with the local health department for contact tracing.

A 14 day quarantine will be required for any student or staff member testing positive for COVID-19. Students and/or staff determined to have had “exposure” as determined by the local health department will follow a 14 day quarantine as well.

Students affected by a quarantine will be transitioned to Remote Learning until they are able to safely return.

The school nurse will work with the health department to notify the building principal and other stakeholders as necessary.

Medical clearance will be required to return to school.

More than any other year, it is critical that student/parent/guardian contact information be kept up to date and that any changes to addresses, phone numbers, and other contact information be made known to the school immediately. It is also necessary that if choosing the In School option, you must have a plan to pick your child up from school in a timely manner if deemed necessary.

Food Service

Breakfast and Lunch information will be provided soon from the individual buildings.

Access will be restricted to water fountains, except for the water bottle refilling stations at the high school.

No outside delivery of food will be permitted, until further notice.

Expectations

(The following includes, but is not limited to, expectations of various groups. These may change at any time based on health, safety, and instructional needs.)

Student - Abide by, and adapt to requirements necessary to promote a safe learning environment. Students will wear a mask, face covering, or face shield. Utilize designated entrances and exits to buildings. Follow any signage placed in the building. Observe social distancing guidelines, where possible. Assist school personnel in various ways, when considered safe to do so. Communicate with all staff any questions or concerns.
**Parent** - Conduct health assessment (including a temperature check) prior to sending your child(ren) to school. Note: Students with a temperature above 100 degrees should stay home. If they arrive at school with a temperature above 100 degrees, they will be sent home.

Exercise patience as we begin the school year. Adjustments may need to be made at any time.

If you are transporting your child(ren) please follow all directions of school personnel while on school property to safely drop off and pick up your child(ren).

Limit visits to the school unless necessary and conduct a personal screening prior to arrival.

Masks, face coverings, or face shield will be required to enter the building and while on campus.

Communicate with all staff any questions or concerns.

Monitor student progress often.

**Staff** - Staff will wear a mask, face covering, or face shield.

Staff will perform a self-assessment before arrival at their building.

Staff will maintain the confidentiality of others in accordance with Federal, State, and Local regulations and policy.

Staff will enforce the established safety protocols.

Staff who suspect that a student is displaying symptoms will notify the school nurse for further evaluation.

Staff will strive at all times to promote the health and safety of students at all times.

Staff will strive to promote the highest level of the instructional process at all times whether it be In School instruction or Remote Learning.

*Again, we want everyone to understand that being in a public place, such as a school, will propose some level of health risk that cannot be eliminated. Also, this document may be modified at any time based upon changing needs, regulations, or governmental mandates.*