



Oakdale Grade School

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Return to School Guidelines

2021-2022 School Year

Oakdale Grade School will make every effort to have children back to school safely and as normal of a setting as we can. We believe the social/emotional benefits students received from in-person instruction last year were immeasurable and our district will make every reasonable effort to make that possible again. We will be continuing some of the practices we put in place last year. In this document you will find a summary of the protocols for the school day during the 2021-2022 school year.

Masks and Social Distancing:

- ❖ Students and staff will follow guidance of the ISBE, CDC, IDPH, and local health department in regards to wearing face masks as they become available.
- ❖ In accordance with guidance from the CDC, masks will be required to begin the school year. Consistent and correct mask use by people who are not fully vaccinated is especially important indoors and in crowded settings, when physical distancing cannot be maintained.
- ❖ Hand washing/sanitizer will be encouraged often.
- ❖ CDC recommends schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms, combined with indoor mask wearing by people who are not fully vaccinated, to reduce transmission risk.
- ❖ Students will be physically distanced just as we did last school year as much as possible. In all classrooms and at lunch, it will be a minimum of 3 feet.

- ❖ These requirements may change, please be accommodating as possible as we navigate changes throughout the school year.
- ❖ We will have a two-tiered plan that will use Local Health Department guidance to decide what level of mask mitigations is required.
 - Tier 1 – Recommended: Parents may choose to have their child wear a mask to school.
 - Tier 2 – Required: All Students will be required to wear masks throughout the school day.
- ❖ Students who refuse to wear a mask when required will be considered to be non-compliant, in accordance with our student handbook.
- ❖ Students are required to bring their own face mask every day.
- ❖ Any staff or student not able to wear a face mask when required will have to have a doctor's note to exempt its use.

Temperature/COVID-19 Symptom Check:

- ❖ Parents will be responsible for taking each of their child's temperatures. If the child's temperature is 100.4 or greater, they should stay at home.
- ❖ Parents should also check each child for COVID symptoms, such as cough, fatigue, fever, chills, headache, nausea, vomiting, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, or has known close contact with a person who has been diagnosed with COVID-19.

Bus Protocol:

- ❖ ALL bus riders and drivers must wear a mask the entire time on the bus.
- ❖ Buses will be disinfected after each bus route (AM and PM).
- ❖ Students in the same family will sit together in a seat.
- ❖ Students will be socially distanced at least 3 feet apart as much as possible.
- ❖ Students will have assigned seats they must stay in throughout the entire bus ride.

Visitors:

- ❖ Nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations with people who are not fully vaccinated are discouraged from visiting schools.
- ❖ Any essential visitor to Oakdale Grade School will have their temperature taken upon entry, will be asked if they have any COVID-19 symptoms, and will have to wear a mask while indoors.

School Entry:

- ❖ Bus Riders: - All bus riders will enter the same door as last year on the west side under the blue awning.
- ❖ Drop Off - Same as last year. Students dropped off in front of the blue awning on the west side of school.

Beginning of the Day:

- ❖ Students will go directly to their homeroom classroom.
- ❖ The school day for the 2021-2022 school year will begin at 8:15 am.
- ❖ Students are permitted to enter the building at 7:45 am.
- ❖ We will not have students congregate in the gym or hallways in the morning.
- ❖ The tardy bell will ring at 8:15 am.
- ❖ For all classrooms, a teacher will be in the room from 7:45 - 8:15 am to help students with homework or receive tutoring.

End of the Day:

- ❖ The school day for the 2021-2022 school year will end at 2:55 pm.
- ❖ Bus riders will be dismissed at 2:55 pm.
- ❖ Parents picking up their children should line up around the school **after** the buses have pulled up to load students. Parents should stay in their vehicles. Students who are being picked up will be called individually, or by family to exit the school.
- ❖ Students who walk or ride their bike to school will be dismissed after the buses have left, and all students have been picked up to ensure safety.

Physical Education:

- ❖ Normal PE will continue as it was at the end of the school year.
- ❖ Students are recommended to wear a mask, especially indoors.

Remote Learning:

- ❖ As we learned last year, remote learning can be beneficial for students that are temporarily out of school, but is not effective for extended periods of time.
- ❖ Students who are quarantined will be expected to remote when absent those days.
- ❖ Students who will remote for an extended time (not on quarantine) must supply a doctor's note to move to remote learning in lieu of learning in person.
- ❖ Students are expected to attend school in person as we have layered health mitigations in place.

Additional Sanitation:

- ❖ Rooms will be thoroughly disinfected at the end of the day.
- ❖ Throughout the day, janitorial staff will clean all door handles, water stations, bathrooms, etc.
- ❖ Within classrooms, teachers will clean "high touch" areas frequently.
- ❖ Buses will be sprayed with disinfectant after each use. (After each AM route, and each PM route)

Positive COVID-19 Case:

If the school is made aware a student or staff member has tested positive for COVID, we will work with the Washington County Health Department and school personnel to determine which students/staff members have been in close contact with a positive student/staff member and will need to be put in quarantine. The length of quarantine depends on the date of last contact with the positive case. The length of quarantine will be determined by the Washington County Health Department/CDC. All cases will be reported to the County Health Department to aid in contact tracing.

- ❖ Fully vaccinated persons are not required to quarantine, but should self-monitor for symptoms for 14 days after their last exposure to the case during the case's infectious period.
- ❖ Students who test positive or considered to be in close contact will be allowed to take their Chromebook, or laptop home with them to learn remotely.
 - ❖ Teachers may use Google Meet in their classrooms with students when feasible.
 - ❖ Students will have access to all material covered in class.
 - ❖ Remote Learning will be handled on an individual basis. A plan will be designed for each student based on grade level, internet access, and well-being.

If a Student Becomes Ill During School:

- ❖ A screening of the student will be done to identify symptoms by staff.
- ❖ Staff will immediately notify the family.
- ❖ Students will be isolated until they can be picked up.
- ❖ Parents will need to have a plan to get their child from school if a student becomes ill during school.
- ❖ Oakdale Grade School will err on the side of caution. With the many symptoms of COVID-19, students will be sent home more readily than in the past.

In Accordance with CDC Guidelines:

In accordance with State and Federal guidance, students/staff who are suspected of having COVID-19, whether they are tested or not, must be fever free (without fever reducing medication) for 24 hours before returning to school. If student/staff is suspect for COVID-19 and chooses not to be tested, they must stay home for a period of 10 days after symptoms begin. If the student/staff tests positive, return date will be determined by the Washington County Health Department. If student/staff tests negative, they may return to school (if fever free as explained above.) Students/staff may also get alternative diagnosis from their health care provider or the Health Department. Documentation must be provided to the school office.

Resources:

<http://dph.illinois.gov/covid19/community-guidance/school-guidance>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>

This guidance is subject to change based on the COVID situation in our state, county, community, and school, and new guidance handed down from the CDC, IDPH, ISBE, Gov. and local health department.