



LUTIE R-VI SCHOOL DISTRICT

Re-opening Plan

2020-2021

Updated 8/7/2020

Lutie R-VI School District's goal is to create an environment as safe as possible while providing quality educational experiences that include opportunities for social interaction, small group instruction, and extracurricular activities. We have taken recommendations from the CDC, local and state health departments, Missouri Department of Education, and many others.

One of the biggest concerns with reopening schools across America is class size. We are very fortunate at Lutie to be able to offer small class sizes across all grade levels. We have added additional teachers to the elementary staff, so all grade levels will be singular this year. At the middle school and high school level we are going to a 10-block schedule. This will allow more course offerings and smaller class sizes. More popular courses will have been divided into multiple sections to keep the class sizes small.

While we cannot guarantee your child will not get COVID-19, we can take every precaution necessary. We hope the following information helps answer many of the questions you may have about beginning school in August.

What is the first day of school for students?

- The school year will begin on Tuesday, August 11, 2020. This date will only change if the Missouri Department of Education sends updated guidance with this requirement.

What precautions will be taken to ensure student and staff health and safety?

Some of the precautions we have taken, or will have taken by the time school starts include:

- Spraying the entire campus, including buses, with an eco-friendly (EPA-approved) virus killing solution using a biostatic process that last 90 days. (This will be repeated up to 5 times a year.)
- Intensify cleaning and disinfecting measures to ensure the physical space, equipment, and materials are safe to use.
- Daily sanitizing will be implemented for high touch areas (door knobs, handles, fixtures, etc.) throughout the day.
- Adding numerous hand sanitizers and touchless dispensers.
- Instructing students to wash hands and providing time to do so.
- Provide water bottles to use at our new touchless water bottle filling stations.
- Adding questions regarding internet access on enrollment forms so we know what is needed in the event of another shut-down or quarantine declaration.
- Limit non-essential visitors.
- Train teacher and staff regarding new safety procedures and social distancing requirements.

Who will be required to wear face coverings?

Teachers and staff will be required to wear face coverings (mask and/or shields) when in the building. Currently, it is not recommended for children to wear face coverings. It is very impractical to expect young students to wear masks. Grades 7-12 will be required to wear a mask during passing periods where social distancing is difficult. Any older student who wants to wear a mask during class is more than welcome and of course encouraged. If you send you child, of any age, with a mask they certainly may wear it. Face shields are also welcomes and will be provided to staff that request one.

Will social distancing guidelines be observed?

- Yes, social distancing will be observed as much as possible. When social distancing requirements cannot be maintained (such as between class time, etc.) students will be strongly encouraged to wear a face covering.
- We will alternate meal schedules to enable social distancing. Elementary students will be required to eat breakfast in the classroom, while enjoying a morning read aloud from the teacher. High school students will alternate between eating in the classroom and/or cafeteria.

Will students and adults be screened daily?

- Yes, adults will complete a daily screening process. Including a questionnaire and have their temperature taken before entering the building.
- Students will have their temperature taken before entering the building.

If a student comes to school sick or becomes sick during the day, what will happen?

- If a student is sick, the nurse will screen the student, and check their temperature. If the temperature is 99.5 degrees or higher, the student will be isolated and sent home.
- We will provide a separate place for sick students to wait while their parents pick them up. If your child has a fever at school, you will be notified to pick them up immediately.

How normal will the day be for students?

- Our goal is for your student(s) to have as normal of a day as possible while also providing an environment that is as safe as possible. Students will not remain in the same classroom all day but will be able to transition from one class to another.
- Elementary students will be allowed to play outside at recess (we will limit the number outside at one time). The only exception to this is the weather, as we have always practiced. From all indications, the virus does not live long on outdoor surfaces and in direct sunlight. We will encourage kids to keep a distance between each other while playing. They will be required to wash their hands once returning inside the building.

Will students still have extra classes like PE, art, music, and library?

- Yes, students will continue to participate in their specials classes and check out library books. In some cases, the teacher may present lessons in the students' classroom to reduce the amount of cleaning.

Will classrooms be arranged differently to protect students?

- Yes, classrooms will be arranged to provide more space between students. This might mean all desks are arranged in rows facing in a single direction. It might result in reading areas with bean bags, couches, or comfy chairs being removed. We will make every effort to provide distance but not limit students' ability to interact and communicate with others in the classroom. Supplies and materials will not be allowed to be shared.

How will you help fill any gaps my student has from the previous year?

- All students will be assessed at the beginning of the school year or before to determine areas of strengths and weaknesses. Classroom teachers and the Title 1 staff will address student's needs during small group and guided instructions throughout the school year.

Will bus transportation be provided?

- Yes, the district will provide bus transportation as was provided in previous school years. We will be requiring siblings to sit together on buses and spacing as much as possible between family groups on the bus (assigned seats will be required). In addition, students will sanitize their hands before entering the bus.

Will students attend school every day?

We plan for students to attend school daily (Tuesday-Friday). In the event of a shut down, we will implement our AMI (Alternative Methods of Instruction) packets. We will utilize Google Classroom, Google Meets, and/or Zoom daily with seat time required in the application. Assignments will be posted in Google Classroom for students to submit. In addition, AMI packets will be sent home for students who do not have internet capabilities. Teachers will reach students via phone calls, email, or other methods.

What changes have been made to the attendance policy?

- We are asking parents to help us to keep everyone healthy by **NOT** sending your child to school if he/she exhibits the following symptoms: fever/chills, cough, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches (not due to known exercise or injury), headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea, diarrhea, or vomiting. If your child is sick, we simply ask that you call us and let us know. Your child will be able to make up the work as provide by the guidelines in each student handbook.
- If your child is quarantined due to exposure to someone with COVID-19, we will provide a laptop for your child (if needed) to work from home. If your child **HAS COVID-19**, you will be required to stay home a minimum of 14 days **AND** provide proof of a negative or antibody test to return to school.
- We have adjusted our attendance policy. While we know that good attendance is essential to academic success, we realize the health and safety of our students will be the first priority. Therefore, we will not have attendance incentives this year. Instead, an incentive for final exam exemptions will be offered on other criteria such as turning assignments in on time, character, and disciplinary records. However, this is not a free pass for poor attendance. We will work with any student who is restricted due to quarantine or illness, but repeated absences and neglect of academic work will be addressed as in the past.

As our partner in safety, we know prevention and safety discussions happen first at home. With this in mind, we ask parents to teach their children proper hand washing at home and talk to their children about how to reduce the spread of germs. Please remind them not to touch their face, nose, mouth, eyes, and to sneeze/cough with a tissue or into their elbow. Covering their mouth when they cough with a tissue or into their elbow will also help prevent the spread of germs. Proper hand washing and sanitation will go a long way keeping everyone healthy.

If I do not want my student(s) to return to a traditional classroom, what are my options?

The district is committed to provide a quality education to students regardless of where that learning takes place. If you are afraid to send your child to school, have someone at home who is high risk, or if your child is high risk, we have the following option available to you.

- Full online instructions through Acellus (Kindergarten-8th). Students will be required to reach their weekly lesson goal, set by the Acellus program. This will ensure they are learning grade level materials and standards that they would also learn during in class learning.
- Full online instructions through our Acellus program (9th-12th). The Acellus program offers the same courses and more than we offer during in class learning.
- Students in grades K-12 will be required to commit to a semester at a time for Virtual Learning. If you start Virtual Learning in the fall, you will stay in the Virtual Learning platform through December 18, 2020. If you start Virtual Learning in January, you will stay in the Virtual Learning platform through May 28, 2021.

A digital application will be posted on our districts website. You may also request a paper copy from the district office. Parents and students are required to commit to the online programs by Friday, July 31, 2020. We will loan your student(s) a Chromebook, if needed. We do not provide internet service at home, but our parking lot will be open for your child to log in to our wifi using their username and password.

Will we have an open house?

Yes, it will be different than in past school years. We will post a virtual open house for returning students. New students and students who have a new staff member will schedule an open house meeting with that teacher the first week of August. More details will be sent home closer to August. Adults will be required to fill out a health questionnaire and all parties will have their temperature taken upon entering the school building.

What if there is a confirmed Case of COVID-19 in the school building?

When there is confirmation that a person infected with COVID-19 was in the school building, the Superintendent will contact the local health department immediately. Unless extenuating circumstances exist, the LEA will close the school building for a minimum of 2-5 days and work with the local health department to assess factors such as the likelihood of exposure to employees and students in the building, the number of cases in the community and other factors that will determine when the building should reopen. The Superintendent will contact parents/students and employees and notify them that a person who tested positive for COVID-19 was in the building and encourage cooperation with the district and the local health department to trace contacts with the individual. The individual who tested positive will not be identified in communications to the school community at large but may need to be selectively identified for contact tracing by the health department. While the school building is closed, all school activities will be cancelled or rescheduled, regardless of whether the activity was to take place in the building or another location, including extracurricular activities, before and after-school programs, and field trips. Parents/students and employees will be encouraged to stay at home until more information is provided by the Superintendent or the health department.

In closing, please remember that we will not hesitate to make changes to our plans as additional guidance is released regarding COVID-19. The health and safety of our students and staff is of paramount importance. We always appreciate the support of our Lutie families and staff, but we especially appreciate your support right now as we work through the many details for providing the best learning possible for your children during this most unusual time. With your help, we can get back to school and make up for lost academic time. We look forward to seeing you on August 11th.