



Hardin-Houston Local School

5300 Houston Road, Houston, Ohio 45333

Ryan Maier
Superintendent
Sara Roseberry
Elementary Principal

Amy Ayers
Treasurer
Jeff Judy
High School Principal

Craig Knouff
Assistant Principal
Athletic Director

ph: (937) 295-3010 fx: (937) 295-3737

Hardin-Houston School Return to School Plan



As we look to the start of the 2020-2021 school year, please be understanding of every individual's opinions and viewpoints while we maneuver through these challenging times. Please realize Hardin-Houston School must follow numerous guidelines from various health agencies with the ultimate goal of providing a safe and welcoming environment for our staff and student body. As you have seen in the past few months, everybody must be ready and open-minded regarding changes that are quickly instituted by the Governor's Office or the Ohio Department of Health as the COVID-19 virus data evolves.

As a district we fundamentally believe that we can best serve the educational and social needs of all our students within the confines of our school building. To that point Hardin-Houston Local School District will use the following guiding principles as we plan to safely reopen our building to in-person instruction to our Wildcat students on August 20th:

1. We will continue to work in collaboration with the local health department to provide a safe learning environment to educate all students.
2. All staff members will wear face coverings when within close proximity of students as currently required by the Governor's orders.
3. This plan will evolve daily as new guidelines and government directives are put into place.
4. Some level of risk will always be present when children and school district employees occupy school district facilities.
5. We recognize the need for consistency in areas of operations while recognizing that individual differences in classroom sizes, school facilities, and building operations may lead to some inconsistencies. Our goal is to social distance as much as possible.



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Daily Self-Monitoring

- Students' temperature and health should be monitored daily before coming to school by bus or by personal transportation.

Student Illnesses at Home

- Any student with a fever over 100.4 F must stay home.
- Any student that has the following persistent symptoms of COVID-19 should stay home from school and consider contacting their primary care provider to be assessed for COVID-19:
 - Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headaches
 - Loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea
 - Cough
 - Any person linked to a COVID-19 case
- Students that only have a fever and no other symptoms and have not had any contact with an individual that has COVID-19 may return to school after they are fever free for 24 hours without using any fever reducing medications.
- Students should handle any other illnesses in this routine manner.

Student with Signs of Illness at School

- Any student diagnosed with a fever of 100.4F will be sent home.
- Any student with flu like symptoms will also be sent home.
- If a child is sent home with a fever and not diagnosed with COVID -19, the student can return to school if he/she is fever free (without medication) for 24 hours.

Positive COVID-19 Diagnosis and Return to School

- If a student is diagnosed as having COVID-19, they must meet the following criteria to return to school:
 - 3 days with no fever (without using fever reducing medication) **AND**
 - Other symptoms improved **AND**
 - 10 days since symptoms first appeared



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- If the positive individual is asymptomatic, the period of isolation starts from the test date and is 10 days in length.
- The student must be transported by a parent/guardian on the first day back to be accessed by the office staff or school nurse to ensure the aforementioned criteria has been met.

Communications when a student/staff member has been diagnosed with a COVID-19 positive case

- Communication will be developed by the Health Department, not the school district. A common template will be developed to include the following:
 - Specify to parents/guardians which classroom/bus/school/other activity the confirmed case was in (ex. Mr. Smith). Necessary and appropriate information will be shared with staff.
 - The school district will cooperate with the Health Department's work in social tracing.
 - Any determination of quarantine will be determined by the Shelby County Board of Health.
 - The Shelby County Board of Health will write a letter for the school district to use that will explain and define what amount of exposure results in a quarantine.

Classroom Occupancy

- Student and school employee face coverings will follow the state mandates or recommendations at the time of enforcement. Face coverings/shields will be provided upon request.
- Classroom occupancy will be determined based on each individual circumstance with the maximum amount of safety considerations possible.

Food Service

- The district may limit Commons occupancy to increase social distancing when needed.
- Kitchen staff will enter each student's PIN lunch account number.
- No self-service will be permitted with individual condiments being used.



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Recess

- We will make every effort to maintain consistency with other safety procedures.
- The district may limit student access to certain pieces of playground equipment and restrict activities that are considered “high touch”.
- Students should sanitize their hands before and after recess.

Transportation

- Parents who utilize school transportation must understand there exists some inherent risk.
- Parents are encouraged to transport their bus riding children if possible.
- Parents should establish back up plans for transporting students in the event transportation must be adjusted.
- The district will allow two students per seat and in some instances three students will be allowed per seat if the children are younger or from the same household.
- Student face coverings will follow the state mandates or recommendations at the time of enforcement. The district highly encourages any student riding a bus to wear a face covering. The district will provide face coverings upon request.
- Face coverings/shields are required for drivers and will be provided upon request.

Water Stations

- Traditional water fountains will be deactivated in the building and replaced with bottle filler models.
- Students are highly encouraged to bring individual water bottles to use during the school day.

Parents/Visitors/Vendors:

- To limit building capacity and reduce exposure, visitors are generally discouraged from being in the school building.
- Safety protocols such as taking temperatures and face coverings will be implemented for all visitors and vendors upon entering the building and for all parents waiting in the office reception area to pick up student(s). We ask parents to call ahead for their child or use the intercom button located outside the office reception area.



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Cleaning Procedures

- All classrooms will be sanitized frequently.
- The Commons tables will be cleaned/sanitized after breakfast and between lunch sessions.
- School buses will be sanitized after each route.

Programs and Athletic Events

- The district will communicate the safety protocols to visitors prior to the event, with the understanding that any visitor who attends the event will incur some level of risk. Our community members and students will be expected to follow the rules and mandates that are in place on the Hardin-Houston campus and when traveling and participating at other schools. These mandates are not meant to offend or inconvenience any person visiting either campus. The intent is to continue to provide all students the opportunity to participate in numerous types of extra-curricular activities throughout the entire school year.
- The district will develop protocols to adhere to based upon the Ohio High School Athletic Association mandates or recommendations for all athletic practices and competitions.
- Events may be modified or canceled at the discretion of the Superintendent with minimal notification.

Remote Learning

- The school district will offer a remote learning option that is not taught by Hardin-Houston teachers for families who do not wish to send their child to traditional school.
- A student must be in a remote learning option for one semester at a time. Special consideration will be given on a case by case basis by each student's building principal.

New Students to the District/Students Returning from Vacation

- Upon enrolling your child(ren) in the Hardin-Houston School District, the district administration has the discretion to require the student to work remotely for a specified number of days including following daily school mandated protocols. The district will provide education to the student during this enrollment phase.
- The district administration has the discretion to require a Hardin-Houston School District student complete their education remotely for a specific number of days dependent on the current health status from where the student vacationed.



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Additional Items of Importance

- Hand sanitizers will be located in high traffic areas, including but not limited to: entrances to the building, classrooms, Commons area, hallways, and buses.
- All parents should have a back-up plan in place in the event that your child(ren) are quarantined at home for an extended period of time.
- Be prepared for a remote learning approach if the governor shuts part or all of the school down OR if we encounter excessive student and /or staff absences OR if we have a large community spread of COVID-19. This on-line learning approach will look slightly different from last spring's, including live zoom sessions, interactive lessons at specific times, and increased rigor.

Please be cognizant that this plan will be very flexible as it will be adjusted accordingly to any modifications and restrictions that are placed upon Ohio schools by the Governor's Office, Ohio Department of Education, and the Ohio Department of Health.

The Covid-19 pandemic vastly affected the 2020-2021 school year and brought about numerous local and state health limitations and modifications. This section of the plan will illustrate the major modifications that occurred during the 2020-2021 school year and preventative measures and projects that will be incorporated for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year.

Vaccines

- Over fifty-five percent of our entire Hardin-Houston staff were vaccinated in the spring of 2021. This number includes our substitute staff, MRESC personnel, and our coaching staff.
- The district did not offer a vaccination opportunity to our students on site due to kids already completing in-person school for the 20-21 school year in addition to parental choice.

HVAC Enhancements

- The district is in the process of installing an air purification product to our existing unit which has demonstrated a 99.4% reduction rate in SARS-Co-V-2 (COVID-19) surface strain within 30 minutes.

Food Service

- The school district provided and delivered breakfast and school lunches during the mandated school closures in the spring of 2020. The district continued these same



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services throughout the 2021-2022 school year for students who participated in the online/virtual platform Educere.

Summer School

- The district employed eight staff members to extend various education opportunities for our K-12 students for the first three weeks of June. All students were provided transportation options to eliminate any potential barriers. This free program also allowed our 9-12 grade students the opportunity for credit recovery at no cost to each family.

Mental Health Services

- Even though the district employs two full time school counselors, Catholic Social Services will be providing an additional two days of counseling for the 2021-2022 school year to meet the social emotional needs of our students.

Local Use of Federal ARP ESSER Funds

Hardin-Houston Local School intends to implement prevention and mitigation strategies regarding guidance for operating schools during the COVID-19 pandemic. We will purchase masks and sanitizing supplies to continue to provide a safe and comfortable in-person learning environment. Automatic hand sanitizers were installed the previous school year, so product will continue to be purchased for these, and also for our misting sanitizers that are used throughout the day in classrooms and buses. A bus will be purchased using the ESSER funds. This will allow students to continue to practice social distancing since we will be trading a smaller bus, and there will be better air circulation with updated heat and ventilation system on the newer bus. We will use some of the funds for ESC contracted substitute that is in the building every day. With staff absences due to COVID and many subs not willing to work in the pandemic, it is vital that we have a sub in the building daily to continue to education our students.

We will continue to evaluate our HVAC system so that improvements can be made as new technology becomes available to keep the air in the building cleaner and safer.

Chromebooks will also be purchased with these funds, and a counseling program has begun this school year in conjunction with the area Catholic Social Services. There is no cost to the district during the 2021-2022 school year regarding the counseling services, but funds have been budgeted for 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 so that the program can continue.

Funds will also be used for learning loss. We conducted summer school for K-12 students in June, 2021. We will continue to hold summer school for the next several summers to conduct intervention for students who are suffering from learning loss. We will use funds to pay for Opportunity School, which is an after school program for intervention for upper grade high school students. We will also use funds for benchmarking software so that other interventions can be targeted to specific students and specific subject needs. The district will be administering assessments to assess such learning loss, and then analyzing data to be sure that student needs are being met. We will be using several



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assessment softwares to be sure that all aspects of student learning can be evaluated. Software being utilized is MAP by NWEA, MobyMax, and IXL.

The district will continue to evaluate the ongoing pandemic, and make necessary adjustments accordingly.

Any Hardin-Houston parent wanting to comment or participate in a committee to modify the existing plan should contact the following email: rmaier@hardinhouston.org