

# Prairie Central CUSD #8 “Return to Learn” Plan

Prairie Central CUSD #8 strongly believes that children best benefit from face-to-face interaction with teachers and staff. During Phase 4 of the Restore Illinois Plan, Prairie Central students will attend school on-campus for in-person learning following guidelines set by the IDPH and Illinois State Board of Education. In order to create a safe environment for students and staff, the district will adhere to these guidelines by requiring masks to be worn, prohibiting more than 50 individuals in one space, practicing social distancing as much as possible, conducting symptom screenings and temperature checks, and increasing school-wide cleaning and disinfecting.

## Reopening Plans

Assuming we remain in “Phase 4” of the Restore Illinois Plan, the reopening of Prairie Central schools will take place as follows in three separate stages:

**Stage 1:** August 24<sup>th</sup>-October 9<sup>th</sup>: Monday through Friday, students will attend school on-campus from \*8:00-11:00am (see chart at the end of this document for actual times) and remotely for two hours each day, beginning approximately two hours after dismissal time. When students are not learning on-campus, they will be engaged in a combination of independent and/or teacher-guided learning at home. Independent learning will include paper or online activities involving various assigned software programs. Teacher-guided learning will include online activities and lessons led by Prairie Central teachers. This phase will support students in their transition back to school by offering a shorter in-person day, as well as offering remote learning sessions to prepare students in the event of another mandated closure. Because August and September often offer our most uncomfortable temperatures, a late-morning end time will provide some relief from these conditions. It is hoped that this shortened day will also help students become acclimated to wearing a mask on a daily basis, without immediately requiring them to be worn a full school day. NOTE: Afternoon attendance is mandatory. Students must participate in afternoon sessions in order to be counted present for the day. Meal procedures to follow.

**Stage 2:** October 13<sup>th</sup>-November 6<sup>th</sup>: Our on-campus learning day will be extended to five hours, and each day will be a two-hour early dismissal. Students will spend the day with their classroom teacher(s), and in-school lunch service will begin. During this phase, we will be preparing students to return to a full-day, on-campus learning day. Students will be asked to complete paper or online work at home (similar to homework), but will not be required to attend off-campus teacher-guided learning.

**Stage 3:** November 9<sup>th</sup>-End of Year: Students will attend classes on-campus according to their regular schedule.

## Extended School Day Program

Children with disabilities having an IEP or 504 plan or those requiring additional intervention due to loss of learning during COVID-19 will receive services during all stages and all educational settings. During “Stage 1” of the reopening plan, students with special education services, an academic Tier Intervention

plan, or who did not complete remote learning successfully last spring may be asked to stay on-campus for the entire day to receive these services in-person. Teachers will find air-conditioned spaces to accommodate this instruction. Families of students who are eligible will be contacted by the school to arrange this.

## **Safety Measures**

The following safety measures will be in place to keep our schools a safe and healthy environment for learning:

**Masks:** Per IDPH and ISBE mandates, face coverings must be worn by all students, staff, and visitors at all times while in the building or on the bus. All face coverings must cover the nose and mouth, and must be school-appropriate. Scheduled mask “breaks” will be given whenever possible to keep students comfortable. A doctor’s note indicating a medical condition must be presented in order for a student to be excluded from this requirement. Masks will not be required while outdoors if students are able to maintain social distancing requirements. A doctor’s note **MUST** be presented to the school by August 14<sup>th</sup> to be exempt.

**Social Distancing:** Students and staff will be asked to remain 6-feet apart whenever possible during the school day, both indoors and outdoors.

**Cleaning/Disinfecting:** All classrooms will be disinfected at least every 24 hours. Classrooms with more than one group of children will be disinfected between classes. Bathrooms and commonly touched surfaces will be routinely cleaned and disinfected throughout the day.

**Playgrounds:** Students will not be asked to wear masks while on the playground, however social distancing will be practiced as much as possible during playground use. Playground equipment will be disinfected periodically and groups will be limited to 50.

**Building openings:** For safety and to avoid congregating, buildings will be open 20 minutes before the scheduled start of classes. **PLEASE DO NOT** send your child to school any earlier than this, as he or she will not be allowed into the building and will not be supervised. Those children arriving on buses will be allowed in at the time their bus arrives. Students who need to arrive earlier to ride a bus to another school are encouraged to arrive 10 minutes before the scheduled bus pick-up time.

**Small Groups:** In order to limit exposure, and where feasible, students will be grouped and will stay with this group as much as possible during the school day.

**Hand sanitizer:** If available, the use of hand sanitizer will be required as students enter and exit classrooms to prevent the spread of germs from classroom to classroom.

## **Screenings**

As required by ISBE, each parent will have to “self-certify” their child(ren) each day by indicating if any of the following are present: cough, chills, and/or muscle ache; shortness of breath and/or headache;

nausea/vomiting; diarrhea; sore throat, running nose and/or loss of taste or smell; close contact with someone positive for COVID-19. If your child is experiencing any of these symptoms, you are required to keep them home and notify the school. (Procedures on how self-certifying will be communicated are forthcoming.) In addition, each student's temperature will be taken as he or she enters the building or boards a bus. If the child shows a temperature of 100.5 or above, or answers "yes" to any of the aforementioned symptoms, he or she will be sent home immediately. A more detailed health plan is included with this document. Please know that staff will be required to follow these same procedures on a daily basis.

## **Visitors**

In order to keep our students and staff safe and healthy, visitors will NOT be allowed in schools until further notice. Those with scheduled in-person meetings will be allowed to enter the building with proper screening. Every effort will be made to schedule all meetings in a virtual format in lieu of face-to-face. For students who are being picked up mid-day, parents should call when they arrive and students will be brought to the door for pick-up.

## **Transportation**

Prairie Central buses will transport children who qualify for this service to and from school each day. Buses will have a limited capacity of 50 children. Children *must* wear a mask on the bus and at bus stops. Upon entering the bus, children will have their temperature taken. Any child found to have a temperature of 100.5 or above will not be allowed on the bus and will be sent home immediately. Parents will be called by the school office or transportation department to advise them of their child's return or to ask you to pick your child up at the bus stop. You will be responsible for your child's safe return home. Buses will be sanitized before/after each route. Students will be assigned seats on the bus, and will be assigned to sit with family members where applicable.

Parents are STRONGLY ENCOURAGED to transport their children to and from school if they are able.

## **Meals**

Breakfast will be served daily at each Prairie Central school, and will be available to all on-campus learning students.

Lunches during "Stage 1" of the reopening plan will be take-home only. Parents will be asked to sign up for this option. More information is forthcoming.

Lunches after "Stage 1" will take place at school.

In order to limit the number of visitors, meals will not be available to those choosing remote learning.

## **Celebration Treats**

Unfortunately, due to safety concerns, students will not be allowed to bring treats or prizes for classmates on special occasions. Elementary teachers will continue to make every effort to make your child feel special and remain safe on his or her birthday.

## **Technology**

Technology will be made available for all students who need it for their Stage 1 off-campus learning, and for any subsequent mandatory remote learning. Kindergarten students will be issued iPads, while 1<sup>st</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students will be issued Chromebooks. Per grant requirements, preschool students will not be issued technology. Technology will be taken home and returned to school on a daily basis during Phase 1 learning. Parents will be asked to sign up for this option for their child *if needed*, and will be held responsible for damages or unreturned devices. Families who are in need of internet access are asked to contact their child(ren)'s school for support.

## **Mental Health Resources**

Social-emotional learning will be emphasized as students and staff transition back to school. Mental health services will be available to all students and staff members, whether they are participating in on-campus or remote learning. If you believe your child needs mental health services, please call your child's school for assistance.

## **Lockers/Storage Areas**

Students will be allowed to visit their locker or storage area at the beginning and end of the school day ONLY. Please do not send/ bring extraneous items to school, as students will not have access to them during the day. PE lockers will not be assigned for Stage 1 learning, however this will be reassessed for Stage 2 and 3 learning.

## **Available Training**

During all remote learning, including "Stage 1" of the Return to Learn Plan, teachers will be using Google Classroom to help deliver instruction and assignments to students. In addition, teachers will choose either Remind or Class Dojo to communicate with parents, and Zoom or Google Meet for synchronous learning. Training on these programs will be available on-demand for interested parents. More information will follow once training is available.

## **Alternate Learning Environment Option:**

Some students may not be able to attend on-campus learning due to a medical condition or other extenuating circumstance. Additionally, parents may simply choose not to send their children back to

campus for safety reasons. For these students, Prairie Central schools will offer remote learning opportunities. If this option is not chosen for medical reasons, we urge you to strongly consider in-person learning. Please take into account your child(ren)'s strengths and how they best learn. If your child has an IEP, we strongly urge you to consider face-to-face learning so he or she can best benefit from special education services. Research shows that face-to-face learning is much more valuable than online learning. The benefits of interacting in person with teachers and staff reach far beyond academics. By far, the most effective, efficient, and beneficial education for students is face-to-face learning.

### **Remote Learning:**

Please know that remote learning will look FAR different from what took place in the last few months of the 2019-20 school year.

\*Remote learning IS a school day. Classes will be scheduled and taught by Prairie Central teachers and the student will be expected to attend every class, every day at its **scheduled** time via Zoom or Google Meet. Attendance is mandatory and will be taken daily.

\*Grades will be assigned just as they would during in-person learning. Students will be expected to participate in class and submit assignments through Google Classroom.

\*All registration and course costs are the same for remote learning as they are for in-person learning.

\*Not all course offerings will be available to remote learners at the 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade levels due to the hands-on nature of the courses.

\***NOTE:** If remote learning is chosen, students must remain in this mode of learning until the beginning of a new trimester (K-6) or quarter (7-12). Remote learning is a long-term commitment due to staffing considerations. Please strongly consider this. Parents will be asked to make this decision by July 31<sup>st</sup> to register their child for remote learning. Preschool children cannot attend through remote learning per the federal guidelines for Preschool For All.

### **Homeschool**

If you choose not to enroll your child in Prairie Central Schools, or any other public or private school, you may choose to homeschool him or her. Please know that if you do not enroll your child, you will not be entitled to receive resources from the Prairie Central school district. A copy of the homeschool registration form is available at ROE 17 in Bloomington, IL, where you will submit copies of your planned curriculum for approval. Homeschooled students may not participate in Prairie Central extracurricular opportunities. \*NOTE: Prairie Central CUSD #8 does not preside over homeschooling decisions. For more information about homeschooling please go to: <https://roe17.org/services/home-school-information>.

### **Phase 3 of the Restore Illinois Plan**

In the event that Illinois returns to “Phase 3” of its Restore Illinois Program, and group sizes are decreased to a maximum of 10, most Prairie Central students will receive instruction off-campus through remote learning. Throughout “Stage 1” of the Prairie Central “Return to Learn” Plan, students will be prepared for this phase. This will look different than our emergency remote learning program that took place in the spring. Differences include (but are not limited to):

\*Attendance for remote learning will be mandatory, and students will be expected to be present, communicate, and engage with their teachers on a daily basis. Students must be visible to the teacher at all times. Students must communicate with teachers when additional supports are needed to be successful. If your child is unable to communicate needs, a parent should advocate on his or her behalf.

\*Schedules will be set for classes, just as they are during in-person learning. Schedules will be given the first day of remote classes, and are subject to change by the teacher. This will be communicated with parents and/or students.

\*Grading will take place as it normally does during in-person learning. Grades K-6 will continue with Standards Based Grading, and grades 7-12 will continue with traditional grading.

Students who are eligible for our “Extended School Day” Program may be asked to attend school in-person in small groups. This could include students with IEPs, students with academic 504 plans, students with Tier plans, and students who have not shown success through the remote learning process. Families of eligible students will be contacted with more information about this program.

### **Phase 5 of the Restore Illinois Plan**

During Phase 5 instruction, students will be instructed fully on-campus. All students including those choosing remote learning will return to school full-time Monday-Friday with health measures in place (such as additional handwashing and hand sanitizing, and additional cleaning procedures).

### **All plans are subject to change!**

Please know that we are committed to doing what is best for students, attending not only to academic needs, but social-emotional and physical needs as well. Precautions outlined in the Return to Learn Plan are meant to keep students as well as staff and family members safe. As the situation with the COVID-19 pandemic is ever-changing, our plans to educate students must be flexible. We wish to continue working collaboratively with parents to do what is best for kids. Please communicate your needs with us

regularly, so that these can be accommodated to the best of our ability with the resources we have to offer. Additionally, we ask that you please ***be prepared at ALL times to move to a remote learning program***. We have prepared for this scenario, and will attempt to prepare your child(ren) for this in the event that it becomes a reality. Preparation looks different for every family, however most importantly please be ready with emergency childcare plans for your young children.

Now more than ever, it is important for all of us to model a positive attitude. We'll get it wrong before we get it right and we'll have the opportunity to demonstrate the grace, flexibility, resilience and creativity we hope to build in our students. Thank you for your support of education!

**Stage 1 (August 24<sup>th</sup>-October 9<sup>th</sup>) learning schedule:**

<b>Building</b>	<b>In-Person Learning</b>	<b>Remote Learning</b>
Prairie Central High School	8:10-11:10	1:10-3:10
Prairie Central Junior High	7:50-10:50	12:50-2:50
Prairie Central Upper Elementary	7:50-10:50	12:50-2:50
Prairie Central Elementary	8:10-11:10	1:10-3:10
Prairie Central Primary West	8:20-11:20	1:10-3:10
Prairie Central Primary East	8:20-11:20	1:10-3:10
Preschool Programs In-Person	AM Session: 8:20-11:20 PM Session: 12:30-3:10	