

## **LEE COUNTY SCHOOLS RE-OPENING PLAN**

The Lee County Schools is committed to providing a quality education to our students while we work through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. This plan in whole or part can change at any time throughout the year as circumstances require.

During the 2020-2021 school year, we put many things in place to keep our students and staff safe and we will be continuing many of these things as we move into the 2021-2022 school year. We will be monitoring COVID-19 numbers in our school and community and make decisions regarding changes we need to make at any time throughout the school year. We will also follow any required mandates that are in place and realize mandates can be put in place or removed throughout the pandemic.

### **MASKS**

During the 2020-2021 school year mask use was mandated by an executive order from the governor. As we start the 2021-2022 school year mask use will be highly recommended but voluntary for all students and staff unless the number of cases of COVID-19 rise to a high level in our community and it is determined to make them mandatory for a certain period of time. At least for the start of the school year masks will be required on school bus transportation as the current CDC Public Health order requires mask wearing on all public transportation including school buses. We have purchased masks for students and adults and have made them available to anyone who needs them.

### **VACCINATIONS**

While there is a lot of science behind the COVID-19 vaccinations, being vaccinated is a personal choice for adults and for parents and guardians of our students. Everyone should consult with their family physician and make a choice that is right for their circumstances. COVID-19 vaccinations have been made available at our school to students age 12 and up as well as to staff and community members during our registration event. Vaccines can be received at the Lee County Health Department and other locations throughout the county.

### **SOCIAL DISTANCING**

The concept of remaining 6 feet apart will be emphasized where possible throughout the school setting. However, in order to bring back as many students to our school as possible, we know that a 6 feet distance will not be achieved in most locations. We will put as much space as possible between students when the incidence rate in the county is high or when cases come into our schools. We will also utilize the concept of putting students into “pods” or small groups that remain consistent regardless of classroom setting.

### **CONTACT TRACING and QUARANTINES**

Contact tracing is an important aspect of containing the COVID-19 virus. While the health department will continue to contact trace throughout the community, we will continue to trace and require quarantines from school like we did during the 2020-2021 school year. Students and staff who come in contact with a positive case of COVID-19 will be expected to quarantine following current public health recommendations.

## **CLASSROOMS**

The student desks in classrooms prior to the COVID-19 pandemic were not easily cleaned and were not conducive to both group learning environments and individually spaced environments, so all new student desks and chairs have been purchased that will allow our students to be socially distanced when needed or collaborate in groups when conditions allow. The desks and chairs will be separate from each other and will be easily cleaned.

During the 2020-2021 school year students remained in the same classroom as much as possible to eliminate the potential spread of the illness in transition periods. During the 2021-2022 school year students will be allowed to move from one classroom to another but when the same group of students moves together they will have the same seating arrangement in each location they travel.

## **CAFETERIA**

Our plan for the 2021-2022 school year will be for students to eat breakfast and lunch in the cafeteria. They will have assigned seating as consistent as possible with classroom seating for ease of contact tracing. During the 2021-2022 school year our students ate lunch and breakfast in their classrooms. If cafeteria use becomes part of a problem with COVID-19 transmission we will reevaluate and possibly return to the plan we utilized during this past school year.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

Masks will be required on school bus transportation when we open school in the 2021-2022 school year. If conditions change or the CDC provides new guidance, we will make adjustments to the plan. Students will have assigned seats on the bus for ease of contact tracing and families will be asked to sit together. Extracurricular trips will follow this same guidance.

## **INSTRUCTION**

Teachers will utilize the Google Classroom learning management system. They will post lessons in the Google Classroom to utilize throughout the year. Students who may go on quarantine or get ill will be able to complete their work from home. Teachers will also utilize the iPad and SWIVL devices provided last year to record lessons or provide real-time connections for lessons throughout the day for those students who may be on a quarantine.

In addition to the SWIVL devices and Google Classroom, teachers will have available the programs of Screencastify to record lessons from their computer and EdPuzzle for assessing learning. We will also continue to make APEX Learning available for Lee County Middle High School students in the event we have a long shut down due to COVID-19.

## **LEE COUNTY BOBCAT VIRTUAL ACADEMY**

The Lee County Schools will have a virtual option for students who were successful with virtual work during the 2020-2021 school year or who are new to the district and wishing to enroll and commit to being successful with virtual learning. There is an application process and applicants will be reviewed by our Virtual Academy Dean as well as the DPP and Instructional Supervisor. Students who qualify for the virtual academy will utilize instruction through the SchoolsPLP learning platform.

**CLEANING and DISINFECTING**

Schools and buses will be cleaned regularly and disinfected with a solution of ArmourGuard RTU Disinfectant every 90 days. This product coats surfaces so that a live virus will die on it.

**FIELD TRIPS**

Field trips will be evaluated on an individual basis. Data such as incident rate in our county, incident rate at the destination, number of students participating, reason for the trip, etc. will assist in determining if a trip can take place.

**ATHLETICS**

During the 2020-2021 school year several protocols were put into place to keep athletes and fans safe throughout the COVID pandemic. All teams will use caution as students practice and participate in competition. We will determine the level of restrictions on athletic activity based upon the cases of COVID in our student and community population and utilize the protocols we used during the last school year as necessary.