

Cardinal Country Highlights Upsala Area Schools District #487

Upsala Area Schools District #487 *Every Student ... Every Day* WINTER 2020-21



District: (320) 573-2174

K-12: (320) 573-2175





Preparing for a Unique Winter Season

Greetings UAS Families -

Every school year as we approach the winter season, I write an article that discusses winter weather preparedness and how we will communicate any weather-related school cancellations and/or delays. As the COVID-19

pandemic continues to impact our school community, I am including an update on our current learning plans as well.

COVID-19 and UAS Learning Plans

As we began the school year back in September, our primary goal was to implement our In-Person Learning Plan for as many students as possible for as long as possible. We were able to accomplish this goal through the first quarter of the school year, however, due to increasing case numbers and issues related to the quarantining of staff and students, we transitioned to our Hybrid Learning Plan for the secondary students for the remainder of the first semester. We will continue to monitor the data from multiple sources in order to ensure that we are making informed decisions and maintaining a safe and healthy learning environment for students and staff. It is my hope that we will not need to move to more restrictive Learning Plans in the future.

As we move into the holiday season, we are anticipating that case rates will continue to rise. In order for us to continue implementing an In-Person Learning Plan, in any form, we need your help. Please remember to follow the health and safety guidelines recommended by the MN Dept of Health...wear your mask, wash/sanitize your hands often, socially distance yourself from others, and make sure to keep students home if they are sick. If we all commit to these simple strategies, we will increase our chances of keeping students and staff safe and in-school.

Also, thanks to all UAS staff and students for doing your part to enable our success to this point. To achieve our goals, we need to work together to ensure that our Learning Plans are implemented with fidelity. Your positive attitudes and resiliency is greatly appreciated.

Winter Weather Delays/Cancellations

One constant of every school year is the impact that the weather can have on school schedules and activities. The winter months always bring the possibility of

school closures and delays. This year, these decisions may involve changes in Learning Plans as well. The decision to close, or start late, begins at the moment there is a predicted storm or prior to 5:00 am on the morning of the storm. I begin gathering information about the weather and road conditions from various sources, such as the Minnesota Department of Transportation, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), area Superintendents, as well as consulting with our lead custodian and some of our transportation staff. I also will get out and drive the roads myself to gauge the conditions.

Even with all this information, the decision to close or delay is still a very difficult one to make and I am certain there will be times when others will disagree with my decision. I cannot guarantee that I will make the correct decision every time, but I will guarantee that the decision to close or delay school will be made with the safety of our students and staff as my primary concern. I will also make every effort to make the decision to close or delay in a timely fashion that will minimize any disruptions to the schedules of our families. Depending on the snowfall and/or current weather conditions, and how soon plows may be on the roads, *I will attempt to make this decision by 5:45 am at the latest*.

Once a decision has been made to close, start late, or close early; communicating this decision to parents and staff is critical. Upsala Area Schools uses a variety of media to disseminate these decisions, including the use of automated phone calls, social media and news outlets. Our student management system (JMC) will send out automated calls, texts and emails to parents and students. We will be using this system to announce any closure or delays this year. **Parents, please make sure that you have updated your primary contact information with the main office**.

We will also post the message on our social media including Twitter, Facebook, and the District's website. In addition, we will post announcements on the following news media outlets: WYRQ, KLTF, and KFML Radio - Little Falls; WCCO & WCCO Radio 830 -Minneapolis; KASM Radio - Albany; KCLD, KZPK, and KCML - St. Cloud; KSTP & KSAX - Alexandria; KMSP Fox 9; KEYL Radio - Long Prairie; SC Times Website; and KARE 11.

When we communicate the decision to close, start late, or close early; we will attempt to include all the details for parents, students, and staff. Please understand that the media outlets may not include all the details when they distribute the announcement. In the event that we close school for the day, or if we close early, due to severe weather, *all extra-curricular and after school activities will also be cancelled or postponed*.



Greetings UAS Families,

I hope everyone is doing well during these challenging times! It's hard to believe that we are already done with the first quarter.

Although this school year has presented us with many challenges, it has been great to see our

community come together to make this the best school year we possibly can.

Having students back in the building has been the best part of the school year. I will never again take this for granted! Our students are doing a great job adjusting to the changes they have been presented with this year. It took some time, but I feel they are doing an excellent job, (even though they may need a reminder from time to time to wear their mask properly). I couldn't be prouder of the students in this district! They have overcome a lot this school year already. Speaking of overcoming challenges, the entire staff at UAS has been nothing short of spectacular! One of the biggest challenges we face as a district is a shortage of subs in all areas of the building. Our teachers and staff members have stepped up to help in any way they can when we have a shortage of staff members. If you see a member of our staff, please take a moment to thank them for all they do for the students in our district. I am proud to work side by side with them everyday.

Last but not least, we wouldn't be where we are without the support of our school board and community members! Thank you for your patience and understanding as we navigate through this pandemic. It is not easy for anyone, but together we will get through it. I look forward to the day when contact tracing and quarantine are not words used in our everyday language.

As administration, we will continue to provide the safest environment possible for our students and staff. As always if you have any issues or concerns, please contact me.

Stay Healthy and have a great holiday season!

Mr. Nick Klug, K-12 Principal

Superintendent's Corner continued...

I also want to encourage all families to make sure that you have a plan in place in case of school closure or delay. Careful planning and communication will ensure that all of our students and staff members are safe during any winter storm weather. *School closure days may be considered Distance Learning days for students and staff*.

In closing, I would like to thank all students, parents/ guardians, staff members, School Board members, and community members for the ongoing support of Upsala Area Schools. We strive for excellence every day at UAS and your support enables us to achieve at high levels. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions, concerns, or input to share.

Vern Capelle Superintendent of Schools Cardinal Pride!!



September Students Of The Month

ELEMENTARY STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Ms. Peterson Ryker Bense

Ms. Wolbeck Lacie Winter

Ms. Bengston Abraham Ainali

Ms. Fuchs Abby Rakotz

Ms. Eichers Emmett Warga

Mr. Van Sloten Morgan Ripplinger

Mr. Riitters Madison Goebel

Ms. Thell Lacey Larson

Ms. Klosowski Abigail Carlson

Music Morgan Ripplinger

> Phy Ed Anerol Castro Gavin Blenker

Art Suzette Guthrie

Library William Barthel

SR HIGH STUDENT OF THE MONTH



Audrey Thomas

Subject Students of the Month: English: Brenna Graves Math: Journey Wenker Social Studies: Bennet Pundsack Science: Tyson Leners PE: Zach Bartkowicz Health: Aden Warga Ag/Voc Ed: Daniel Kokett Technology: Darcey Hayes Art: Ty Poppenhagen Music: Madalin Koetter FACS: Natalie Wensmann World Language: Gracie George AVID: Kaylea Loscheider

JR HIGH STUDENT OF THE MONTH



Paul Blonigen

Subject Students of the Month English: Isaiah Sobiech Social Studies: Lucy Scepaniak Science: Kira Poppenhagen Ag/Voc Ed: Allie Maciej Art: Holly Johnson Music: Evelynn Aleckson

SEPTEMBER ATHLETES OF THE MONTH



ELEMENTARY STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Ms. Peterson Hannah Hoffman

> Ms. Wolbeck Lucas Ley

Ms. Bengston Gabe Hoffman

Ms. Fuchs Cody Johnson

Ms. Eichers Ruby Klug

Mr. Van Sloten Karsen McLaughlin

> Mr. Riitters Jakson Blenker

> Ms. Thell Bailey Kremers

Ms. Klosowski Sam Laliberte

Music Lucy Aleckson

Phy Ed Olivia Klasen Josie Roerick

Art Braxton Ailie

Library Wayne Bloom

SR HIGH STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



Mikal Woidyla-Wood & Shanna Dobmeier Subject Students of the Month: English: Noelle Allord Math: Michael Young Social Studies: Brooklyn Bense Science: Erica Roske PE: Cody Holt Health: Madison Tschida Ag/Voc Ed: Michael Blonigen Technology: Axel Johnson Art: Anders Aleckson Music: Isabelle Leners FACS: Angie Horvath World Language: Savannah Stumpf AVID: Alyssa Young

JR HIGH STUDENT OF THE MONTH



Evelynn Aleckson

Subject Students of the Month English: Holly Johnson Math: Brayden Leners Social Studies: Jack Primus Science: Samantha Pilarski Ag/Voc Ed: Eli Roerick Art: Austin Klein Music: Isaiah Sobiech

OCTOBER ATHLETES OF THE MONTH

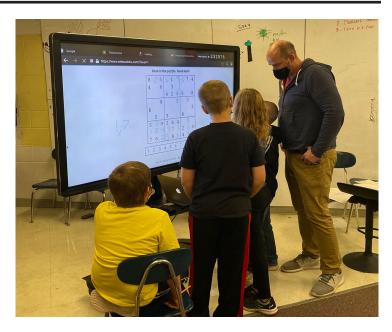


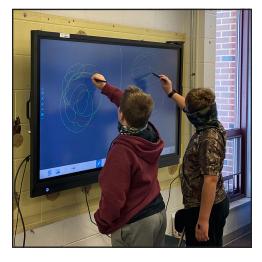
New Technology

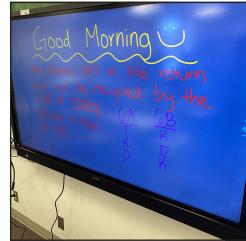
Upsala Area Schools recently purchased and installed (through the availability of a government grant) 30 interactive white boards for teachers to use in their classrooms.

These Newline Interactive whiteboards are a significant improvement over Upsala's aging projectors and the handful of smartboards that were installed prior to 2010.

The new boards allow teachers to search and use browsers built into the monitors, interact and take notes on top of web-pages and videos, provide new levels of engagement and sharing of content with the changing Hybrid and distance learning experiences, and also provide direct touch contact and interaction with new curriculum that we have not been able to use previously.













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WALK-A-THON

The annual Dollars For Scholars Walk-A-Thon was held on October 30 and raised a total of \$1,560! The five students who raised the most money were

1st place – Leah Fruechte

2nd place - Gabriel Hoffman

3rd place - Owen Fuchs

4th place – Hannah Hoffman

5th place – Aleah Wolbeck





UPSALA LIONS CLUB

We would also like to send out a HUGE thank you to the Upsala Lions Club for their very generous donation of \$2,500 to Upsala Area Dollars for Scholars and the Class of 2021. Thank you so much!



HOMECOMING 2020

Band Notes

This fall, the senior high band had the time and opportunity to work on field show marching.

With Mrs. Cheney's background as a U of MN Marching Band Alumni, the students were introduced to different marching techniques including 8 to 5, slant, drop, add, swinging gates and much more. It was a new, fun experience for many members of the band. We are looking forward to someday doing a whole field show!

The 7-12 music/choir students have been working on many things, but one of the

favorites is bucket drumming. Thank you to those that donated buckets.

We are hoping to have some kind of virtual performance of small ensembles this semester.

As always, thank you for supporting the Fine Arts at UAS!

Fall Play

With covid restrictions, it is a struggle to find scripts that will allow safe rehearsals and performances - but this year's fall play does just that.

The play is called "10 Ways To Survive Life In A Quarantine" by Don Zolidis. It is a collection of comedy monologues about kids and the different ways that they try to cope with life when they are stuck at home.

Thirteen students are participating, and we plan to present the show right before Christmas break - either in person or online. Watch the school website and social media for details.





Elementary Girls Basketball Grades 2-6 Youth basketball will look a little different this season as we work to comply with COVID guidelines. Scrimmag-

Ack ton mes, or tourn, be held on Saturdays, gyms to keep groups as set, if practice will be on December 5th, in helping coach, please contact Coach ha, salak 12.mn.us). Fer: \$25.00 Instructors: Upsala true hecketer 15th [, Varsity Players, and Volunteer Parents Dates Pac. 5th -th Christmas Break Christmas Break Christmas Break Christmas Break Dates Dates Dates Dates Dates Dates Dec 26th-No Prachae, Christmas Break Laury 2nd Jaun Pach Datas Dec 26th-No Prachae, Christmas Break Dates Dec 26th-No Prachae, Christmas Break Diana Pach Datas Dec 26th-No Prachae, Christmas Break

Winter Sports Start Dates

Elementary Boys Basketball Grades 3-6

dars mary ord power 30th ebruary 10th-No **deo**tice February 20th February 27th Streamore Games interfor sportin

With attendance currently limited for sporting events, you have the option to live-stream home sporting events taking place in our big gym on the school's Yoube channel.

You can link to the channel using the icon on the top of our

For road games we will do our best to publish links to the other school's live stream.





Upsala Area Schools – ISD #487

2020-2021 Hybrid Learning Plans

Overview

In this plan, both in-person and distance learning plans will be implemented in a blended model, maintaining strict social distancing. Integrating in-person and distance learning will provide an instructional model that complements and reinforces the attributes of each learning plan. During in-person instruction, students can be engaged in authentic collaborative learning experiences. The distance learning component may include multimedia-enhanced instructional activities, learning practice, and channels for ongoing instruction and support. In developing this learning plan, we are required to limit each space to 50% of the capacity and maintain strict six feet separation for social distancing. The majority of our classroom spaces would be limited to a maximum of 15-16 individuals (students and staff). We will have 2 options for the implementation of a hybrid learning plan based on COVID-19 case-rate data:

- 1. Grades K-6 In-Person and Grades 7-12 Hybrid
- 2. Grades K-12 Hybrid

Instructional Delivery

K-6 Students In-Person – Grades 7-12 Hybrid Learning Plan

- All PreK through Grade 6 students will attend school in-person every day.
- Daily schedule for all PreK-6 will be the same as the In-Person learning model.
- When in-person, students and staff will adhere to District health and safety protocols for in-person learning.
- Parents/families may opt out of this learning plan and choose Distance Learning as an instructional plan if attending school every day is a concern.
- Students in grades 7-12 will receive instruction both in-person and through distance learning according to the A/B cohort schedule below.
- Wednesdays are flexible learning days to allow for the following:
 - \circ $\;$ Delivery of individual academic and behavioral supports to students.
 - o Completion of coursework for specific classes.
 - \circ $\,$ Make up of any missing coursework or assessments.
 - \circ $\;$ Work on project/activities that require in-person attendance.
 - Meet with activity groups.
 - Meet with advisors and advisory groups.
 - Completion of any other tasks that cannot be completed virtually through distance learning practices.

UAS PreK-6 In-Person/7-12 Hybrid Schedule

Student Cohort Groups	K-6 Students: In-Person every day						
	7-12 Students	7-12 Cohort A: In-Person Monday and Thursday					
		7-12 Cohort B: In-Person Tuesday and Friday					
	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>		
Grades K – 6	In-Person	In-Person	In-Person	In-Person	In-Person		
Grades 7-12	Cohort A In-Person	Cohort B In-Person	Flex Learning Day Advisory/Virtual Hours Intervention/Enrichment	Cohort A In-Person	Cohort B In-Person		
	Cohort B Distance Learning	Cohort A Distance Learning		Cohort B Distance Learning	Cohort A Distance Learning		
Distance Learning Option	Full Distance Learning						
Student Day	8:00 AM – 3:18 PM						

Full PreK-12 Hybrid Learning Plan

- All PreK through Grade 12 students will follow the A/B cohort schedule below.
- Daily schedule for all PreK-12 will be the same as the In-Person learning model on in-person learning days.
- When in-person, students and staff will adhere to District health and safety protocols for in-person learning.
- Parents/families may opt out of this learning plan and choose Distance Learning as an instructional plan if attending school every day is a concern.
- Wednesdays are flexible learning days to allow for the following:
 - Delivery of individual academic and behavioral supports to students.
 - Completion of coursework for specific classes.
 - \circ $\,$ Make up of any missing coursework or assessments.
 - Work on project/activities that require in-person attendance.
 - Meet with activity groups.
 - Meet with advisors and advisory groups.
 - Completion of any other tasks that cannot be completed virtually through distance learning practices.

Full PreK-12 Hybrid Learning Schedule

Student Cohort Groups	All Students	Cohort A: In-Person Monday and Thursday					
		Cohort B: In-Person Tuesday and Friday					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	<u>Friday</u>		
Grades K – 6	Cohort A In-Person	Cohort B In-Person	Flex Learning Day Advisory/Virtual Hours Intervention/Enrichment	Cohort A In-Person	Cohort B In-Person		
	Cohort B Distance Learning	Cohort A Distance Learning		t Cohort B Distance Learning	Cohort A Distance Learning		
Grades 7-12	Cohort A In-Person	Cohort B In-Person	Flex Learning Day Advisory/Virtual Hours Intervention/Enrichment	Cohort A In-Person	Cohort B In-Person		
	Cohort B Distance Learning	Cohort A Distance Learning		t Cohort B Distance Learning	Cohort A Distance Learning		
Distance Learning Option	Full Distance Learning						
Student Day	8:00 AM – 3:18 PM						

Instructional and Academic Expectations

Instructional Expectations

- Teachers will utilize Google Classroom as the primary Learning Management System (LMS).
- Synchronous activities will follow the daily master schedule.
 - Direct instruction will follow the UAS Master schedule for each grade/course.
 - Direct instruction for distance learners will be delivered simultaneously through Google Meet or Zoom videoconferencing.
 - During hybrid learning, teachers will meet with students individually or in small groups a minimum of 1x per week.
 - Teachers will establish virtual 'office hours' on flexible learning days.
- Asynchronous activities
 - \circ $\;$ Direct instruction lessons will be recorded and posted in Google Classroom LMS.
 - Teachers and students will interact on a daily basis.
 - All coursework will be posted in Google Classroom LMS weekly.
- Feedback/Grades will be provided/updated weekly.
- While distance learning, students will participate in direct instruction according to the guidelines outlined in the **2020-2021 Distance Learning Expectations for Students Grades 7-12**.
- If not able to participate in the direct instruction, students will view recorded lessons and complete assigned coursework in a timely manner.

Special Student Populations – Cohort C

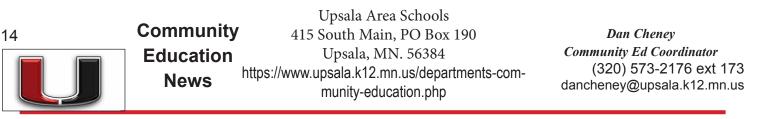
- Students in special populations (Special Education, 504 plans, etc.) may be designated for every day inperson instruction.
- Students in special populations will be placed in Cohort C.
- Cohort C students will follow the UAS In-Person Learning Plan and attend school every day.
- Student schedules will be individualized according to their unique needs.

Transportation

- Transportation will be provided in accordance with District Policy 707 Transportation of Public School Students.
- Transportation will comply with requirements and recommendations as set forth by MDE/MDH.
- Transportation with District vehicles will follow the guidelines in the UAS Re-Entry Blueprint.
- Parents/families are encouraged to transport students to and from school whenever possible.
- Student drivers are encouraged to transport younger siblings to and from school whenever possible.
- Students/Parents/Families will use designated pick up/drop off sites when arriving/departing school.
- Parents/Families picking up students are asked to remain outside in their vehicles until students are dismissed.

Food Service

- Breakfast and lunch meals will be provided every day for students.
- In-Person learners will follow the daily schedule for meals.
- Students/Families will have the option to receive meals during their distance learning days according to the following schedule:
 - Students in Cohort A will receive 'grab-n-go' meals on Monday for 2 days (Tuesday and Wednesday) and on Thursday for 1 day (Friday).
 - Students in Cohort B will receive 'grab-n-go' meals on Tuesday for 2 days (Wednesday and Thursday) and on Friday for 1 day (the following Monday).
- Distance learning meals will consist of a pre-packaged breakfast and cold lunch for each distance learning day.
- Students opting for distance learning meals will pick up meals at the end of the day as they leave school.
- Parents/Families may sign up for distance learning day meals by contacting the District Office.



At Upsala Community Education our goal is to provide opportunities for people of all ages and to enrich their lives through many different offerings beyond the regular school day and school year. We work with other groups including civic, non-profits and local businesses to enrich the lives of our community members.

If you have a talent, interest, or area of expertise; consider sharing your talents or interests with your community by becoming a Community Education instructor.

Please refer to our Registration/ Policies for questions about Out-of-District registration or email <u>dancheney@</u>, <u>upsala.k12.mn.us</u>.

How to register for classes online

- 1. Visit our webstore <u>https://upsala.</u> <u>revtrak.net</u>
- 2. Click the **Community Ed** button
- 3. Select the program
- 4. Select the **class** you want to register for
- 5. Select the Click here to register link
- In the sign-in screen

 Enter your email address and password if you are a returning customer. OR

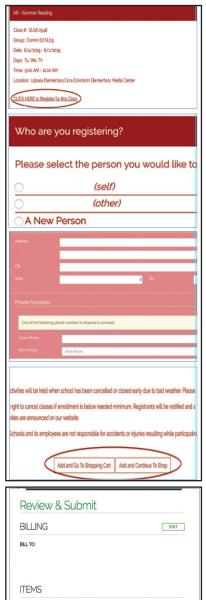
b. If you do not have an account, select **create account**

i. Enter your contact information ii. Create a password

7. The participant window will open. Select the participant's name and complete the required fields.

If your child's name does not appear in the participant's list, select A New Person Enter their name and click submit.Proceed to fill out the required fields

- 8. If you have another child to register, click on **Continue to Shop**. If you are finished, click **Checkout** to add your class to the shopping cart and make payment. Your shopping cart window will open.
- 9. Verify the information for accuracy and click **Go to Checkout**.
- 10. Verify your registrations. Enter the payment information and click **Place Order** Payment will be processed. Your receipt can be viewed and printed.
- 11. View & Print Receipt Click Log out in the lower left corner. Credit card statements will show payment made to the school district.



Snowmobile Instructors Needed



We would like to be able to offer snowmobile safety again - but to do that we need instructors!

If you have any interest in helping out, please contact community education coordinator Dan Cheney by calling the school or email dancheney@upsala.k12.mn.us.

Want To Teach A Class?



Currently we are able to offer in-person classes in the school to our registered students.

Do you have a talent or knowledge you would like to share with our students through community education? Do you have an idea for a class we could offer?

If so, please contact Dan Cheney at dancheney@upsala.k12.mn.us and we can start the ball rolling!

www.upsala.k12.mn.us

\$0.00

avs: 9:00 11:00

AR - SUMMER READING

06/04/2019 - 08/01/2019 9:00 AM ine 4 - August 1 (no meetings July 1-5) Tuesdays & Wedri n Thursdays: 6:00 8:00 pm Cora Eckstrom Elementary M

Quantity: 1

Great River Regional Library - Upsala



 117 Main St. Upsala, MN 56384 - Phone: 320-573-4282 - https://griver.org

 Mon: 10:00-3:00
 Thu: Closed

 Tues: 3:00-6:00
 Fri: 2:00-8:00

 Wed: 2:00-8:00
 Sat: 10:00-1:00



CURBSIDE: YES! Call 320-573-4282 When You Arrive

IN LIBRARY BROWSING: YES! 20-30 Minutes 14 Person Limit in the Library

COMPUTER RESERVATIONS: YES! 1 Hour Limit Per Day

MASKS ARE REQUIRED



FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Join the group that makes the library GO! Help us raise funds and awareness of library programs. Friends meets the fourth Monday of each month.

Perks include meeting authors behind the scenes and hosting great craft classes!



Anyone wishing to check out a mobile hotspot will need to have a current Great River Regional Library account in good standing.

You can borrow a mobile hotspot for up to 7 days at select locations.

Mobile hotspots are available on a first-come/first-served basis.

Return the mobile hotspot directly to library staff.

Upsala Area Schools 415 South Main Street PO Box 190 Upsala MN 56384 www.upsala.k12.mn.us

Bulk Rate US Postage Paid Non-Profit Org Permit No. 2

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

How to Safely Wear Your Mask



Step 1: Wash or sanitize your hands.



Step 2: Make sure the top of the mask is over your nose and the bottom is under your chin.



Step 3: Place the mask over your nose and mouth before you use the ear straps or tie it behind your head.



Step 4: Move the mask around so it covers nose, mouth, and chin completely.



Step 5: The tops of some masks can bend. Press your fingers on the top of the mask to make them fit tight around your nose.



Step 6: Do not touch the mask while wearing it. Use the mask ear straps or ties if you need to make it fit better.



Step 7: Use the mask ear straps or ties to take it off. Do not touch the front.



Step 8: Throw away if mask is disposable.



Step 9: Wash your mask by machine or by hand before you use it again.



Step 10: Wash or sanitize your hands again.



www.upsala.k12.mn.us