



Garretson School District

2020-21 SCHOOL RESTART PLAN



Health Concerns



Transportation



Food Service



School Procedures



Classroom Procedures



Encore Classes

Garretson School District 2020-2021 Restart Plan

A number of factors were considered when making this plan. The recommendations from the SD Dept of Health, the SD Dept of Education, the CDC, American Academy of Pediatrics, the SD State Medical Association, survey information from parents, survey information from staff and direct focus groups. have informed this draft. We do understand that as the school year plays out, there will likely need to be adjustments made to the plan, depending on the local situation within the school district and the advancement of scientific knowledge related to COVID-19.

Risk Levels:

The plan is organized around three phases of varying risk levels for infection within the school. The superintendent will determine the operational risk level and any adjustments based on conditions within SD, Minnehaha County, and the Garretson School District and guidance from local, state and national health officials and organizations.

- Phase I includes moderate risk of spread in the building. There may be active cases in the community, but no active, confirmed cases in the building. Students or staff may have been in close contact of a positive COVID-19 case outside of the school
- Phase II includes an elevated risk of spread. There has been at least one active case of COVID-19 in one of the schools (elementary school, middle school or high school).
- Phase III includes a high risk of spread, with multiple active cases in the building at the same time.

Instructional Format:

The instructional format will look different at the elementary school, the middle school and the high school, but some characteristics will be consistent throughout the different Garretson Schools. Generally,

- Phase I will include face to face instruction, with precautions including regular sanitization, appropriate physical distancing of students and the use of face coverings.
- Phase II will include the use of a hybrid learning model to ensure that students who are required to quarantine or self isolate are able to keep up with their schoolwork. This phase may also include a transition to a cohort model on an AA off BB schedule, with approximately half of our students attending classes Monday and Tuesday in-person,

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and online coursework on Thursday / Friday. Wednesday would be reserved for professional development for staff, virtual check ins with students, sanitization and planning for staff.

- Phase III would include moving to an e-learning model. The District's buildings would be closed.

Opting for Distance Ed

Families who do not wish to have their children physical attend classes will have the option to complete coursework from home. Students in grades k-2 will be provided with packet-based learning opportunities if they are not in school. Students in grades 3-12 will have the opportunity to attend class via distance technology. These students are expected to attend class virtually, at the time class is offered. Students will be expected to complete the same assignments and work as the students who are physically in the building.

Students who wish to participate in this method must notify the District by Friday, August 7, and must commit to this method for one full quarter. Students who move from face to face instruction to a distance format during the school year must complete the current quarter in that format. Students who opt for distance ed will not be eligible for participation in school activities.

Physical Distancing and PPE use

One of the best ways to prevent the spread of COVID-19 is to use physical distance. The CDC recommends keeping 6 feet of distance between individuals. In instances where physical distancing is not possible, students and staff will be required to wear appropriate face coverings. The CDC recommends use of masks in this instance, for all people above the age of two years. In situations where students are able to keep a distance of six feet between them, students may be allowed to remove their face covering. Face coverings are required in communal areas such as the hallways and in all school transportation. Students who refuse to wear a face covering when physical distancing is not possible will be required to opt for distance ed.

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Health Screenings

Parents should screen their children's health every day before sending the children to school or on the bus. Parental health screening should include asking children if they are experiencing any of the signs or symptoms of COVID-19 and should also include checking the child's temperature. Parents will be provided with a graphic that outlines the questions and steps required to screen their child. Individuals with a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher, without fever reducing medication, should not be present in school.

District personnel may conduct temperature checks at school throughout the day, Staff are responsible for checking their own temperature daily.

If a student or staff member has a known exposure to COVID-19 or has COVID-19 symptoms, the individual is directed to quarantine for fourteen calendar days. Anyone with a positive COVID-19 test must quarantine for a minimum of ten days, and must be symptom and fever-free, without fever-reducing medication, for a minimum of 72 hours before returning to school.

Transportation

Parents are encouraged to transport their own children to the schoolhouse. For students riding the bus, parents must screen their children before children get on the bus.

Face coverings are required on all school transportation.

Students will fill the bus from the rear, with family units sitting in groups and seats left empty between students. The seat directly behind the bus driver is to remain unoccupied. Assigned seating may be used to help staff record potential close contacts in case a student test positive for COVID-19.

Seats will be sanitized after busses return from the morning and afternoon routes or activity trips.

Arrival at School / Start of the school day

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Elementary students: Students may enter the building through the West Gym Entrance or the Main school entrance. Parents are reminded that students should not come to school until after 8:00. Students who wish to have breakfast may proceed to the commons. Students in grades k-3 will proceed to the playground until staff bring them into the building. Students in grades 4 and 5 should proceed directly to their classroom.

Middle School and High School students: Students should not arrive in the building prior to 8:00 AM unless they are here for a specific program. Students may enter the building using the Main entrance, Locker Room entrance or the building's Northeast high school entrance. Students who wish to participate in the Breakfast program may proceed to the commons for breakfast. Students participating in Breakfast are expected to adhere to appropriate distancing guidelines, with no more than four students at any one table. Students will not be permitted to "hang out" in the commons, locker rooms or any other area. Students not participating in Breakfast should proceed to their first class.

Classroom Seating and Materials:

Classroom arrangements must be made to maximize the square footage available for instructional purposes. Additional furniture, tables and non-essential materials will be removed from classrooms.

Physical Distancing measures will be in place in each classroom. In classrooms where a 6' distance cannot be maintained, face coverings / masks are required. Physical barriers may be used to provide a barrier between students.

Individual student supplies are encouraged, with minimal sharing of supplies or equipment. In Phase II, no sharing of supplies is permitted.

Regular cleaning will occur, with high-touch areas in each classroom sanitized at least daily.

Specials / Elective Coursework

Phase I: Specials and elective / exploratory coursework will proceed in regular areas during phase I, with emphasis on appropriate physical distancing between students during

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class. Students are encouraged to use hand sanitizer as they exit one room and enter another. Alternate locations and/or activities may be used for the course.

Music classes may be held on an alternating A-B schedule, if necessary to reduce the number of students in the classroom at any one time. High risk activities, such as singing may occur, but students must be appropriately distanced and wear face coverings while in the room.

Phase II: High risk activities, such as singing are no longer permitted. Alternative classroom activities to high risk behaviors will be planned in order to continue learning class-related content.

Technology:

Phase I: Students in grades k-2 will have intermittent access to technology devices throughout the day. Students in grades 3-12 will have access daily access to their assigned iPad. Students in grades 6-12 may take their device home, while students in grades 3-5 will leave their device at school. Courses may be streamed for the benefit of students who are not physically within the building. All students attending class remotely need to be aware that if their online behavior represents a distraction to other learners, they will be removed from the live session, but will still be responsible for the content of the lesson.

Students will be encouraged to clean their device regularly, following instructions from the technology director.

Phase II: Students in grades 3-5 will be allowed to take their device home, with specific permission. All students are encouraged to clean their device daily, following directions from the Technology Director.

Phase III: Students in grades 3-5 will access course content through SeeSaw, or other age appropriate learning management system. Students in grades 6-12 will access course content via google classroom and video conference technology. Attendance at course sessions will be tracked as with in-person attendance.

Breakfast and Lunch

Phase I: Breakfast and lunch will be served in the commons / lunchroom area. Students must meet physical distance expectations, with no more than four students at a table.

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Additional seating may be set up in the Old Gym for certain classes to allow for more usable space. Additional sanitation measures will be taken between groups. Some food items may be limited. Parents and/or guests will not be allowed to join students for lunch.

Phase II. Breakfast will be offered as a “sack breakfast” in the classrooms. In this phase, students will need to notify staff one day prior to being served in the classroom. Lunch will still be served in the commons. Additional seating may be set up in the Old Gym for certain classes to allow for more usable space. Additional sanitation measures will be taken between groups. Some food items may be limited. Parents and/or guests will not be allowed to join students for lunch.

Hallway traffic

Students and staff will stay to the right hand side of the hallway when passing. Face coverings / masks are required for all students and staff in hallways. Some classes may stagger passing times to reduce the number of students in the hallways at certain times. In Phase II, staff may take different steps to reduce the need for travel by staggering release times or implementing other schedule changes.

End of the School day

Students are encouraged to leave the building directly after the school day ends. Dismissal times may be staggered to decrease the bottle neck that occurs when all students are released at the same time. HS/MS students will not be allowed to loiter on school grounds after school.

Water Fountains

All students and staff are encouraged to bring a water bottle and use bottle fillers. Students and staff are asked to refrain from using the drinking fountain function.

Attendance

Students who attend school using distance technology will have attendance tracked and reported through infinite campus. In Phase III, students will be expected to attend courses according to the distance learning schedule. Attendance will continue to be tracked.

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Sanitizer stations

Sanitizer stations will be placed in each classroom near the entrance/exit. Students will be encouraged to use hand sanitizer whenever entering or exiting the classroom.

Large Group Gatherings:

Assemblies and large group gatherings of students are discouraged through all phases unless appropriate physical distancing can be maintained. Emphasis will be placed on keeping groups small enough to maintain appropriate distance.

Grading:

Standards based grading will be used in grades k-5. Standard grading procedures will continue to be used in grades 6-12

Staff Attendance:

Phase I: Staff report to school as normal
Phase II: Staff report to school as normal.
Phase III: Staff report to school as directed.

School Activities:

In Phase I and II, efforts will be made to follow recommendations from the SDHSAA for sport specific practices that will keep participants safe. Measures will be taken to maintain appropriate distancing, when applicable, depending upon the sport.

Face coverings / masks will be required on all activity bus trips.

Decisions related to cancellation of events or the restriction of crowd size at events will be made considering seven or fourteen day trend data made available from the SD

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Department of Health, active and new case levels, hospitalizations and other relevant data and guidance from local, county and state officials.

Masks and appropriate physical distancing will be encouraged at all school events.

Use of School Facilities by Non-School Groups:

In phases I and II, non-school groups are not allowed to use School District facilities. Exceptions may be made for local elementary athletic teams by the superintendent, contingent upon those groups presenting a safety plan for practices.

In Phase III, all school facilities are closed for use by non-school groups.

Other needs addressed:

1. With increased needs for sanitization of surfaces and increased square footage and lunchroom tables, the custodial staff will be increased by one full time position.
2. Recognizing that our staff will see a significantly increased burden in planning for students both in and out of the building, the following changes will be put in place:
 1. changing the elementary school dismissal time to 2:55 to better match with the MS/HS release time for ICU. This will give teachers total of approximately 20 additional minutes per day for planning and sanitization of surfaces / manipulative in their classrooms.
 2. Adopting a weekly 1:30 dismissal on Wednesdays for teacher coordination, planning and preparation.

The Board approved this plan at a special meeting on July 30, 2020, granting the administration the flexibility to modify the plan as necessary based on local conditions within the District.