



Update #10 – August 11, 2020

Santa Fe R-X Community:

We have finally made it to August, and I am beyond excited to see our students back in our buildings! The last 6 months have not been enjoyable for anyone and I hope that we can all look forward to providing the structure provided for our kids through the quality education and activities offered here at Santa Fe! The purpose of this update will be to provide you with information regarding our reopening practices and procedures. What you will not find is a 25 page ‘plan’ that calls for intermittent attendance, etcetera. As aforementioned, my intent is for us to be in school, face to face with our students. If exposure causes us to close our doors down the road, then it does, and we will be ready for that unfortunate circumstance. In the meantime, please know that we are taking every reasonable step to keep our students and staff in a healthy environment. I have summarized below many of those measures along with other pertinent information.

COVID-19 Mitigation Measures:

Masks- The district will not mandate the wearing of masks. We do, however, recommend the use of masks at any given time and may possibly request that masks be worn in certain situations as staff deems appropriate. Masks will be provided at no cost. Students may certainly wear their own masks.

Transportation- Transportation will be provided as normal. Students will be spaced as much as possible and will be asked to sit in the same seat every day. Buses will be disinfected daily using an atomizing fogging machine. We are attempting to stagger arrival times of buses to prevent a bottle-neck effect as students enter buildings.

Health Screening- We earnestly request that caregivers closely assess/monitor the health of students prior to sending them to school. We respectfully ask that the taking of students temperature each morning becomes part of their daily routine. Of course, we very much want our students in attendance, but only if they are healthy and pose NO risk of spreading disease. Students with a temperature of 100.4 must be kept home until they are fever-free for 24 hours (note this is without the aid of fever reducing medicines such as ibuprofen).

Facility Sanitation- Several measures are being taken to keep our buildings sanitized:

- Facilities will be sanitized using commercial-grade ‘fogging machines’ which will aid in thoroughly disinfecting classrooms, hallways and common spaces.
 - Additionally, portable foggers have been purchased for use on buses and spaces such as bleachers and areas where the commercial units cannot reach.
- Bi-Polar ionization air purification machines have been scheduled for installation. These machines remove any pathogens (viruses/mold/mildew/bacteria/allergens)



(pollen/smoke)) from the air. These systems will be in addition to our new air handlers, all of which should greatly help improve the air quality within our facilities.

- Staff will sanitize desks in between class periods.
- Where possible, interior doors will be left open to prevent cross-contamination.
- Drinking fountains have been turned off. Students are encouraged to bring water bottles and use the bottle-fillers found on the fountains.
- Hand sanitizer has been purchased in bulk and made available for use. Students will be periodically asked to use hand sanitizer.
- Sanitizing wipes and aerosol sprays have been purchased to aid in the efficient cleaning of surfaces.

Other Important Information:

Food Service- Students will be asked to sanitize their hands using hand sanitizer or by washing prior to eating. At SFE, there will be no salad bar available for self-serve; salads will be premade upon request.

Social Distancing- Students will be asked to distance as much as possible and regular/assigned seating will be expected to aid in contact-tracing. During certain classes, activities and passing periods, distancing will be unrealistic. At these times it will be recommended that students wear masks.

Extra-Curricular Activities- The Missouri State High School Athletics Association (MSHSAA) oversees our extra-curricular activities. At this time, these activities are still being offered to students. It is my hope that we are able to offer extra-curricular activities throughout the school year! As such, our guidelines for participation will be directed by the MSHSAA. One item of note is that the MSHSAA recently changed one of its by-laws allowing for students who are enrolled virtually to still participate in athletics. Their rule also states that district may have more stringent policies, should they choose. At Santa Fe, students must attend school full-time to participate in athletics.

Distance Learning- If you feel your student requires distance learning (virtual/packets) instruction for health/safety reasons, please contact school offices at 660-674-2236 (SFHS)/660-493-2811 (SFE)/660-674-2238 (Central Office). ***Requests must be made by Friday, August 14th.***

If there are any impediments to your child being successful in a distance learning setting, please contact your students office and make them aware. Should your child need technology assistance, it will be provided if within the scope of our abilities.

- ***Grades PK-6: Students at SFE who are not attending in person will have a plan put in place in cooperation of staff, student, and parents/guardians.***
- ***Grades 7-12: students who voluntarily choose a distance learning approach will be enrolled in an on-line program called Edgenuity. This will be a semester long commitment (as we must pay by semester) and the student will not be able to reenroll for face-to-face instruction until the following semester. Should a student be quarantined by the local health department,***



administration and staff will work with the student and family to develop an appropriate academic plan that will best benefit the child. We will not take a 'one size fits all' approach.

In closing, I understand that districts have implemented various approaches, or 'plans', to restart school this year. I also very well understand that the above is fairly 'simple' in comparison to some of the plans out there. This is quite intentional. The district needs the flexibility to put the best plan in place at the time of the 'incident'. I do not feel it is good practice to tie ourselves to, or spend countless hours devising plans based upon speculation. We, like all districts have had countless hours and months of conversations about how we will best serve our students, and that is certainly our goal. To be clear, my belief is that students are best served via face-to-face interaction with their teachers and peers. It will be my goal to maintain this structure, and the various extra-curricular opportunities we all enjoyed as students. Santa Fe Pride!

Sincerely,

**Derek Lark
Superintendent
Santa Fe R-X School District**