



Ready for Learning Plan

Updated on April 15, 2022

Stuttgart School District's *Ready for Learning* Plan

Please note that this document is a fluid document and continues to change as new directives come out from the Governor, Asa Hutchinson, the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education, Centers for Disease Control, Stuttgart School Board and the Arkansas Department of Health. In the event of an infectious disease outbreak the following protocols will be implemented in this document.

Our goal will be to create an environment as safe as possible while also providing a rich educational experience that includes opportunities for social interaction and extracurricular activities. Adhering to the guidelines provided by the Arkansas Department of Health will be a top priority.

What is the first day of school for students?

The school year will begin on August 15, 2023. This date will only change if ADH, DESE, or the Governor of Arkansas sends updated guidance related to when school may start.

Who will be required to wear face coverings?

No one is required to wear a face mask unless it is recommended by the state governing bodies. If facemasks are required, the masks will be worn to cover the nose and mouth when social distancing measures are not possible. For those with specific health conditions that require they not wear a facemask, a physician's note shall be provided to the school nurse stating the health condition that prohibits a face covering.

Do we need to provide masks for our students or will one be provided?

The district will provide two washable masks for every student in grades K-12.

Will social distancing guidelines be observed?

Social distancing will be observed as much as feasibly possible, but at times students may be closer than the recommended six (6) feet apart. We will add physical barriers, redesign classrooms and cafeteria spaces to increase the space between students, but cannot always guarantee students will be feet (6) feet apart.

Will students and adults be screened daily?

Adults will complete a daily screening process. Individuals may be asked the following questions:

- 1.) Have you had a fever of 100.4°F or greater in the last two (2) days
- 2.) Have you had a cough, difficulty breathing, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell
- 3.) Have you been in contact with a person known to be infected with COVID-19 within the previous 14 days?

We are asking that each parent answer the above questions regarding his/her student before sending the student to school. If “yes” is the answer to any of the questions, you will need to keep your child at home, call the school, and your child may be able to complete assignments online until he/she returns to school.

If a student comes to school sick, what will happen?

If a student comes to school sick, the school nurse will screen the student, and check his/her temperature. If the temperature is over the ADH guidance, the student will be isolated and sent home. The student will need to be fever-free for 48 hours without medication before returning to school. When the child returns to school, they will check in with the school nurse.

If an individual tests positive for COVID-19, what will happen?

In the event an individual tests positive, we will follow the latest guidance and be in direct contact with ADH. This could result in a brief closure of a single school within the district to provide time for additional cleaning and sanitation. You may find additional information from DESE by clicking [HERE](#).

How normal will the day be for a student?

Our goal is for your student(s) to have as normal of a day as possible while also providing an environment that is as safe as possible. In grades K-4, students may remain in the same classroom all day during learning opportunities. In grades 5-12, students will be able to transition from one class to another. Of course, sanitation will take place before a new group of students enters a space. More details regarding your student’s day at school may be found on each school’s website.

Will our students have the same arrival and dismissal times?

In order to increase social distancing and to decrease the number of students inside and outside the schools, arrival and dismissal times may be slightly different from last year. Please check with each school regarding arrival and dismissal times.

Will bus transportation be provided?

Yes, the district will provide bus transportation as was provided the previous school year. All students will be required to wear a facemask on the bus, because of the inability to follow social distancing guidelines. There may be exceptions for students with health, sensory or other conditions. Students will sit in assigned seats. Students from the same household will sit

together. Students should maintain a distance of six (6) feet apart while waiting on the bus to arrive.

Will students at the elementary still have extra classes like PE, art, music, guidance, and library?

Yes, students will continue to participate in activity classes, check out library books, receive counseling, attend gifted instruction, and receive regularly provided support. In some cases, the teacher may present lessons in the student's classroom to reduce the amount of cleaning. In other situations, such as PE, students may have an assigned area with specific equipment assigned to classrooms.

Will my student eat lunch in his/her classroom?

Based on current guidance, the ADH is recommending a limited capacity in the cafeteria. We anticipate this could require adjusting lunch schedules or using alternative areas, such as large gathering spaces or lunch in the classroom on a limited basis. Proper sanitation of all areas will be completed after each group. Procedures will not allow students to pick up utensils, self-serve, or share food. Parents are strongly encouraged to open an online payment account for the purchase of à la carte items at the secondary level, so no cash is exchanged. Parents are encouraged to send a water bottle to school with students, since water fountains will not be available. Each campus will be equipped with water bottle filling stations.

Will my elementary student have recess?

Yes, elementary students will have outdoor playtime with restrictions, including limited access to equipment and/or the number of students in an area.

Will classrooms be arranged differently to protect students?

Yes, classrooms will be arranged to provide more space between students. That might mean all desks are arranged in rows facing in a single direction. It might result in reading areas with bean bags, couches, or comfy chairs being removed. It might include dividers between students who are seated at a table. We will make every effort to provide distance but not limit students' ability to interact and communicate with others in the classroom. Additionally, supplies and materials will not be shared by students.

Will students attend school every day or will we have some type of alternative schedule?

We plan for students to attend school daily following a very similar schedule to the traditional school day if possible. Blended learning (combination of traditional and digital instruction) will be utilized on a daily basis, and will be available as students may be quarantined or a school may be temporarily closed. Information regarding online learning may be found on our district website at www.stuttgartschools.org under the "Ready for Learning 2020" tab. A typical day at school could change during the school year depending on the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in a school or our district. There are three levels of response described in this DESE document ([CLICK](#)).

If I do not want my student to return to a traditional classroom, what are my options?

Parents have the option of enrolling their student(s) in virtual learning. This would provide a total online educational program for students who did not feel comfortable returning to onsite instruction. Parents will be asked to sign up for the Stuttgart School District Digital Academy and commit to a minimum of one (1) nine-week period. The deadline for parents and students to commit to the Virtual Academy option is August 12, 2022. The commitment form may be found on our district [website](#) under “Ready for Learning 2022”. Choose “Commit to Virtual Academy (survey 2)”. You may also click [HERE](#).

What happens if we have school closures again?

If schools close again, a plan for at-home digital learning has been developed. This plan includes K-12 grades using Google Classroom to submit assignments. Teachers may utilize Zoom or Google Meet to deliver live lessons. Students will learn how to use these Learning Management Systems by participating in digital lessons throughout the week while at school. Blended learning that includes both on-site traditional instruction and digital instruction will become the norm. This approach will allow students who might be ill or quarantined for a limited amount of time to continue his/her education even if he/she is not physically present in the classroom.

Will students be able to participate in extracurricular activities and sports in the fall?

Yes, we anticipate sports activities in the fall with possible modifications as required by the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH). The Arkansas Athletics Association (AAA) continues to prepare to resume activities and athletics this fall in accordance with the regular AAA calendar. These preparations are contingent upon compliance with all directives as issued by the Governor’s office and ADH.

If students choose to do full-time virtual, will they be able to participate in extracurricular activities?

Yes, under current AAA guidelines, a student must be enrolled in at least one class per day. The athletic period scheduled during the day can count as the one class. If there were an extracurricular activity that takes place only after school hours, then the student would need to enroll in at least one class during the day

What special precautions will be implemented concerning cleaning and sanitizing?

Sanitation and cleanliness will be a high priority for our district as we return in the fall. We have adding additional equipment and supplies to clean high touch surfaces (doorknobs, light switches, etc.) and restrooms on a continuous basis throughout the day. We have purchased disinfectant sprays to quickly sanitize rooms between usages. We will also provide time for handwashing. Hand sanitizing stations will be located throughout our campuses. Students will be asked to sanitize hands each time they leave and enter a new space.

How will you help fill any gaps my student has from the previous year?

Curriculum teams have worked to revise the curriculum so that missed essential standards will be addressed when students return. Additionally, students will be assessed to determine individual strengths and deficits. These assessments will determine if students need additional support.

What support will the district provide for students with special needs (autism, asthma, panic attacks, anxiety, etc.) or students with weakened immune systems and pre-existing conditions?

The district is prepared to accommodate students through both onsite and offsite instruction with special needs. Our Special Education instructors will be taking extra precautions when working with students. If parents have concerns about their students who may be at high-risk because of COVID-19, they may explore the virtual learning option, which allows the student to continue his/her education from the safety of the student's own home or contact the district's Director of Special Education Services to discuss other offsite options available.

In the event of a temporary school closure, how will the district serve students who have special needs (Special Education, 504, Dyslexia, etc)?

In the event of a school closure, students will participate in live instruction with scheduled Zoom or Google Meet sessions. Dyslexia interventions may be provided via scheduled Zoom meetings. Students with disabilities receiving related services (OT, PT, and/or Speech) may receive those services through tele-therapy, tele-intervention, and/or individualized instructional packets. Classroom teachers, special education teachers, and 504 designees will collaborate to ensure students with disabilities are receiving accommodations and modifications during live or virtual instruction.

This plan is subject to change based on guidance from ADH and DESE.