



SHERIDAN
SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Ready for Learning Plan

Updated 08-31-2020

Superintendent Jerrod Williams
www.SheridanSchools.org
870-942-3135

Reopening Schools Task Force

Name	Organization	Position/Role
Jameson Archer	Sheridan High School Student Council Sheridan	2020-2021 President
Teri Bibb	School District	Classroom Teacher
Jamie Burris	Baptist Health	Parent and RN
Tiner Burris	Sheridan School District	EEM Student
Bo Carter	Sheridan School District	Technology Coordinator
Josh Clements	Chartwells	Dining Services
Laura Daniel	Sheridan School District	Director of Special Services
Lincoln Daniels	Sheridan School District	Deputy Superintendent, Parent
Vickie Easley	Sheridan School District	Elementary Principal
Dennis Emerson	Sheridan School District	Director of Administrative Services
Jeanne Gartman	Sheridan School District	Classroom Teacher
Lauren Goins	Sheridan School District	Director of Communications, Parent
Brittany Graves	Winston Clinic, P.A.	Winston Clinic Office Manager, Parent
Alisa Gray	Sheridan School District	Director of Federal Programs & Curriculum
Charlie Kinser	Sheridan School District	Teacher, Arena Manager, Parent
Teresa Knight	Sheridan School District	Intermediate Principal, Parent
Stacy Kratky	Sheridan School District	Special Education Supervisor
Reece McQueen	SSC, Services for Education	Custodial Services Manager
Deborah Mooney	Sheridan Laundromat & Mini Storage Sheridan	Co-Owner, Parent
Lupe Peña de Martínez	School District	Middle School Principal, Parent
Gart Pitts	Windstream	Operations Manager
Dr. Bridget Polk	Sheridan School District	Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning
Stephanie Pugh	Sheridan School District	Classroom Teacher
Tiffany Reed	Chartwells	Director of Dining Services, Parent
Matt Scarbrough	Sheridan School District	Athletic Director, Parent
Nick Soapes	Sheridan School District	Sheridan High School Assistant Principal, Parent
Ryane Sorey	Sheridan School District	Mental Health Coordinator
Tamara Strawn	Sheridan School District	Classroom Teacher, Head Softball Coach
Heather Szefflinski	Sheridan School District	Chief Financial Officer, Parent
Jerrod Williams,	Sheridan School District	Superintendent, Parent
Dr. Scott Winston, M.D.	Winston Clinic, P.A.	Physician, Owner

7 Actions and Assurances to Ensure SSD is Ready for Learning

1

Ensure the continuity of teaching and learning.

2

Address unfinished learning from the prior year.

3

Utilize a learning management system (LMS).

4

Schedule teacher training for how to use the LMS.

5

Schedule teacher training for Blended Learning (delivery of instruction).

6

Provide support for parents and students.

7

Communicate and interact with parents, students, and the community.

1 Ensure the continuity of teaching and learning.



Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum

To ensure a guaranteed and viable curriculum whether students are learning onsite or at a remote location, the Sheridan School District has contracted with Canvas to provide a district-wide learning management system that will support instruction, communication, assessment, and reporting for all blended and virtual learning K-12. This system will make it easier for students and parents to navigate our curriculum and instruction throughout the school year. In addition, virtual content providers have been selected to support teachers and students. K-6 will align Edgenuity Pathblazer virtual content to existing SSD curriculum units. Grades 7-12 will use Virtual Arkansas content aligning with the current SSD curriculum. Teachers, specialists, and administration will collaborate to create a viable, virtual curriculum that will be used for onsite blended instruction and virtual instruction.

Diagnostic Assessments (K-8)

The Sheridan School District will implement NWEA Maps testing for grades K-8 for the 2020-21 school year. The Maps assessment will give teachers needed student achievement data to guide their instruction and interventions based on the individualized needs of their students.

nwea™

2

Address unfinished learning from the prior year.

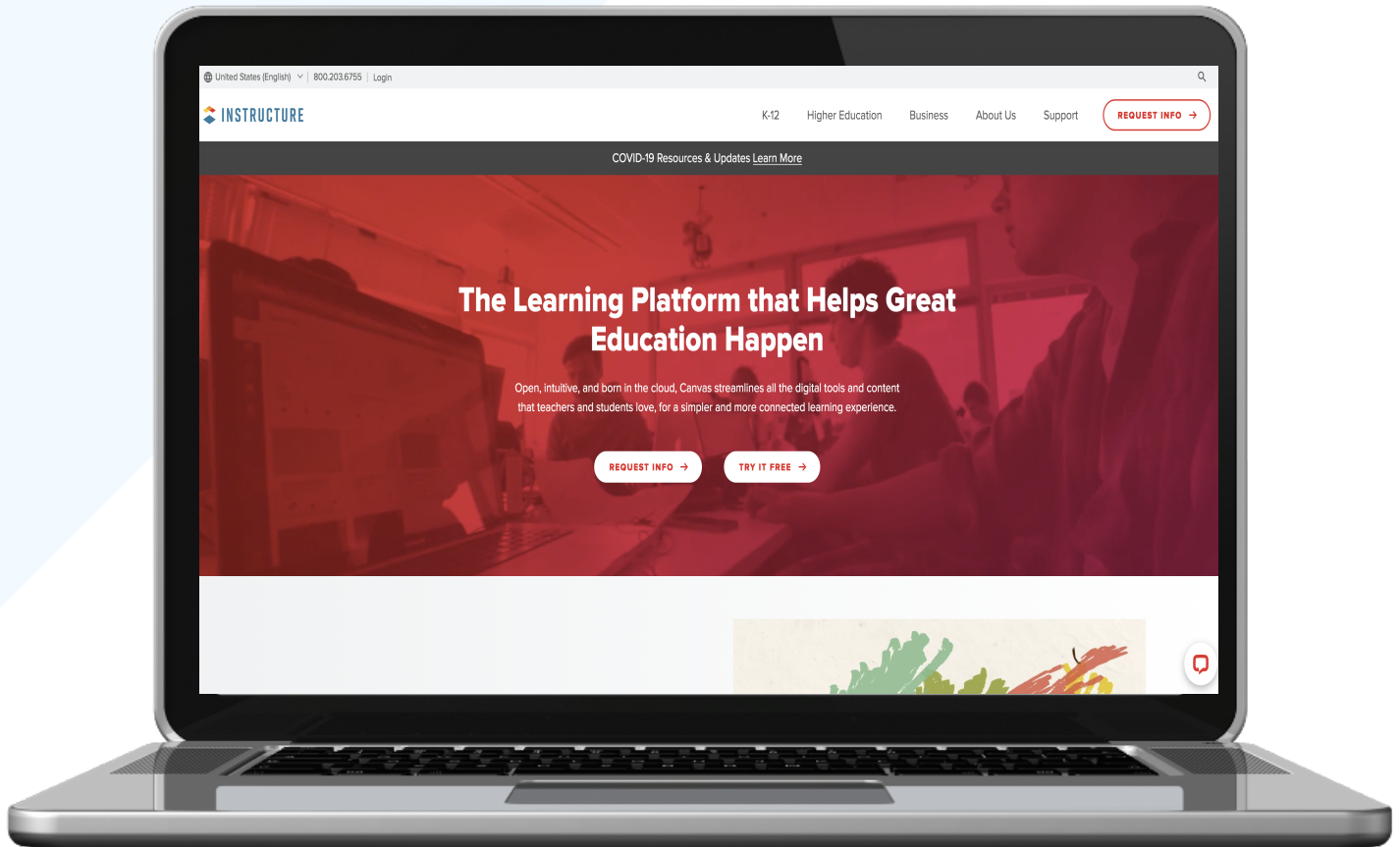


To address unfinished learning from the prior school year due to the extended school closure, the Sheridan School District will utilize district-developed resources as well as the Arkansas Playbook, which includes unit plans with activities, assessments, rubrics, interventions, extensions, and instructional videos aligned to Arkansas Academic Standards and essential learning outcomes.

Core content pre-assessments will be given to identify areas of weakness. Pre-assessment data will be analyzed and used to plan instruction and interventions.

3

Utilize a learning management system (LMS).



Parents and families will have access to the Canvas Learning Management System to communicate and monitor their students' progress. Teachers will use the LMS to provide access to rigorous instructional activities for all students. Students will use the LMS to demonstrate their understanding of essential standards.

4 Schedule teacher training for how to use the LMS.

District administrators and staff began having a training level access to our LMS in mid-July. Teachers officially began completing online training for the LMS on July 31. Training will be ongoing. In addition, the Sheridan School District purchased Tier I support for our Canvas instance. Tier 1 support provides all Canvas users (Administrators and Teachers) access to their Support Team 24/7/365 via online chat, phone, or email/webform. Canvas support contact information will be added to the Help menu in everyone's Canvas instance. Each teacher will have dedicated time during professional development days to access online courses and training resources provided by Canvas and supported by district staff members.



5 Schedule teacher training for Blended Learning (delivery of instruction).

The Sheridan School District has been working Arkansas' Team Digital since March 2020 in order to develop the most appropriate training pathways for our teachers and administrators. Official training for teachers on the topic of Blended Learning began on Aug. 3, 2020.

6 Provide support for parents and students.

The Sheridan School District will provide a Chromebook with webcam and microphone for all students (virtual and blended learners) who request one. Chromebooks will be used at school using the blended model, virtually for those learning remotely, and available to blended students if required to “pivot” to learning at home.

We understand that not every family has access to the Internet at home. We have set up Safe Learning Zones in the parking lots at each of our campuses. Should the district have a mass closure, ten school buses with WiFi hotspots will be deployed at strategic locations throughout the school district community. For students learning remotely, teachers will provide flexibility on due dates for assignments and will not require students to log into the LMS at certain times each day to account for those families who do not always have access to the Internet. The Sheridan School District will provide a Chromebook with webcam and microphone for all students (virtual and blended learners) who request one. Chromebooks will be used at school using the blended model, virtually for those learning remotely, and available to blended students if required to “pivot” to learning at home.



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In September, the Sheridan School District will provide Verizon Internet hotspots to households within the district that do not have access to the Internet. These hotspots will be provided by the State of Arkansas. Those receiving free or reduced meals will have first priority for the hotspots. The district will also take into consideration how many students live in the home as well as whether the students are attending school through the SSD Virtual Academy.

We will continue to provide Grab & Go Meals, mental health services, and intervention services to students who are learning remotely.

The Sheridan School District has provided resources for parents to support them as they make decisions for their student and their family. Below are two helpful resources available on our website.

[FAQ](#)

[Blended vs. Virtual Learning Comparison Chart](#)

The Canvas Learning Management System also includes support and training options for parents.

7

Communicate and interact with parents, students, and the community.

The Sheridan School District will communicate and interact with parents, students, and the community in a variety of ways. Methods for communication include direct text messaging to SSD families and staff, social media, website, mail outs, letters sent home with students, meetings with focus groups (e.g. Reopening Schools Task Force), signage and flyers, face-to-face communication with students in the classroom or on Zoom/Google Meet, parent meetings (in person or Zoom/Google Meet), electronic communication with parents and students through the LMS, electronic surveys, emails to faculty and staff, news media, and paid advertising.

The direct text messaging system is used by administrators at the district and building levels. Classroom specific information will be distributed to families using the LMS. Should the district have a positive case for COVID-19, the district's COVID-19 Point of Contact will directly notify families of each student/staff member who has been identified as a Probable Close Contact. The district will follow the guidance outlined in the [**ADH Communication Flow Chart**](#).

Communication activities will be monitored and assessed throughout the school year. This will be done through the following methods: (1) tracking the number of text messages successfully transmitted, (2) tracking the number of clicks on links to important electronic communications, (3) analyzing survey results, (4) tracking FAQs, and (5) tracking the number of times teachers (or other district staff) communicate with students who are learning remotely.

The Sheridan School District welcomes questions and feedback from its stakeholders. We strive to provide timely responses to questions sent to us through email, social media, and phone calls. Even throughout the summer months, we ensure phone lines were answered at all campuses. In response to the influx of questions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Sheridan School District created an electronic form for families to ask questions pertaining to COVID-19 and our plan for reopening schools. The form allows us to easily track Frequently Asked Questions. The responses to these Frequently Asked Questions are shared publicly on the Sheridan School District website.

Waivers

The following waivers were granted to the Sheridan School District as well as all school districts in Arkansas due to COVID-19.

Waivers	Explanation for waivers the district chooses to use. For any left blank, the district has chosen not to use.
Ark. Code Ann. 6-17-117 (Non Instructional duties - only for the purpose of implementing ADH requirements and guidelines regarding health and safety)	Staff may exceed their number of allowed minutes for non-instructional duty As needed to implement ADH requirements and guidelines regarding health and safety.
Ark. Code Ann. 6-17-204(b) (Teacher contracts - only for the purpose of adopting model policies necessary to implement the Arkansas Ready for Learning Model)	We will use this waiver if needed in order to implement the Arkansas Ready for Learning Model.
Ark. Code Ann. 6-17-205(b)(2) (Teacher contracts - only for the purpose of adopting model policies necessary to implement the Arkansas Ready for Learning Model)	We will use this waiver if needed in order to implement the Arkansas Ready for Learning Model.
Ark. Code Ann. 6-17-2304(b) (Classified employee policies – only for the purpose of adopting model policies necessary to implement the Arkansas Ready for Learning Model)	We will use this waiver if needed in order to implement the Arkansas Ready for Learning Model.
Ark. Code Ann. 6-17-2305(c)(2) (Classified employee policies – only for the purpose of adopting model policies necessary to implement the Arkansas Ready for Learning Model)	We will use this waiver if needed in order to implement the Arkansas Ready for Learning Model.

The following waivers apply only on days, or portions of days, when technology-based approaches are the primary instructional delivery, for specific groups of students that are receiving their instruction primarily through technology-based approaches, or for staff providing instruction primarily through technology-based approaches, or if necessary to implement ADH requirements or guidelines:

Waivers	Explanation for waivers the district chooses to use. For any left blank, the district has chosen not to use.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ark. Code Ann. 6-16-102(a)(1) through (a)(5)(E)(i) (b), and (c) (School Day) Standard for Accreditation 1-A.4.2 and 1-A.4.3 (School Day) 	Students learning from home will not have a standard, 6-hour day of instruction.
Ark. Code Ann. 6-17-111(a) (Duty-free lunch)	It is our intent to provide a duty-free lunch for all licensed staff. It is currently scheduled. However, if it became necessary due to the need to implement ADH requirements or guidelines, we would utilize this waiver as allowed.
Ark. Code Ann. 6-17-114 (Planning time)	It is our intent to provide the required planning time for all licensed staff. It is currently scheduled. However, if it became necessary due to the need to implement ADH requirements or guidelines, we would utilize this waiver as allowed.
Ark. Code Ann. 6-17-211 (Employee leave)	If staff members are working off-site they will not be required to take personal leave or leave without pay.
Ark. Code Ann. 6-17-812(a)(2) (Class size)	It is our intent to follow class-size requirements for all licensed staff. However, if it became necessary due to the need to implement ADH requirements or guidelines, we would utilize this waiver as allowed.
DESE Rules Governing Class Size and Teaching Load, Sec. 3.00 and 4.01 through 4.03	It is our intent to follow class-size requirements for all licensed staff. However, if it became necessary due to the need to implement ADH requirements or guidelines, we would utilize this waiver as allowed.
DESE Rules Governing Student Special Needs Funding, Sec. 4.03.2 through 4.03.2.2.1	It is our intent to follow class-size requirements for all licensed staff. However, if it became necessary due to the need to implement ADH requirements or guidelines, we would utilize this waiver as allowed.
DESE Rules Governing Nutrition and Physical Activity Standards and Body Mass Index for Age Assessment Protocols in Arkansas Public Schools, Sec. 7.10.1 and 7.10.2	It is our intent to follow class-size requirements in Physical Education classes. However, if it became necessary due to the need to implement ADH requirements or guidelines, we would utilize this waiver as allowed.
Standard for Accreditation 1-A.5	It is our intent to follow class-size requirements and teacher load for all courses and licensed staff. However, if it became necessary due to the need to implement ADH requirements or guidelines, we would utilize this waiver as allowed.



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