

WILDCAT PRIDE

August NEWSLETTER



We are off to a great start of the year! I know everyone was nervous about the how things would go upon coming back this year with masks, altered schedules, limiting student interactions, Plexiglas on desks, trying to distance, extra cleaning, eating in classrooms etc. All of us here at school have been impressed with how adaptive students have been and how willing they are to work to follow all the new rules. Even with all we are doing differently, kids seem so happy to be back and I think we have all grown more appreciative of what in person school does for so many students and families.

We have already completed our AIMS reading screening assessments and will complete MAPS next week. These are the assessments we use to help us establish where your child's currently at with their reading and math skills and helps us track our progress and effectiveness as a school overall. Once these are all done, staff will work to help their whole class and individual students make progress in the areas these assessments show improvement is needed. Please look over all the content below for general reminders and updated information on health protocols we will work to follow in response to Covid. Thanks! Mr. Hansen

Health Protocols

Our goal is to maintain IN-PERSON learning as long as possible. In an effort to accomplish this, we need everyone's willingness and cooperation to help make it happen. The plan is to be more cautious and aggressive with minimizing contact to students with any sort of potential illness. This means our protocol for sending students home with questionable symptoms will happen more often.

We know it is always inconvenient to have a kid sent home due to illness, but this year it will be better to have a handful of students sent home more often with possibly minor illnesses as a precaution, rather than let them stay and spread germs. By following this practice, the hope is that minor inconveniences now for a few will help us avoid big ones later for all. The following is a summary of when we will send a child home and is reflective of the latest health department guidance. As I think we all know, this could change in the future, but as of now it is what has been developed.

*If a child has a fever of 100 or higher, students will be isolated and parents will be notified to immediately come to pick up their child. The child must be fever free **without medicine** for a full 24 hours before they may return. If a child is sent home with a fever on Monday, **the earliest they may return** is Wednesday. Student temperatures are checked upon arrival and after noon.

*If a child presents with 2 or more of the following, they will be isolated, parents will be notified to immediately pick up their child, and the student needs to stay home until symptom free. (chills, shortness of breath, fatigue, headache, sore throat, congestion/runny nose, nausea/vomiting, diarrhea). If the student returns to school and still exhibiting symptoms, students will be sent home for 10 days minimum. If a family can produce a doctor's note clearing the child, they may return sooner than 10 days and as soon as we get the note. If a child is sent home with illness, you will receive the doctor's clearance note from us to be returned.

UPCOMING EVENTS

*This year we will continue to focus on Wildcat **PRIDE** (Positivity, Respect, Integrity, Determination, Empathy) The characteristic of focus for September will be Positivity. At the end of the month we will have a PRIDE party and recognize a student from each classroom who exhibited this characteristic and caught their teacher's attention. If your child is selected at some point during the year, a teacher may contact you and invite you to attend. Our first one will be on Thursday, September 24th at 8:20 a.m. in the high school gym.

*It's LABOR DAY WEEKEND!!! **No school on Monday, September 7th. Enjoy!**

***Friday Sept. 25th** is a teacher in-service and there is **NO SCHOOL** that day for students.

*Please visit the school website for athletic dates and times.

Other Health Measures/Reminders

*If you come to the school, no outside people are allowed in the building during school hours (7:30-3:45) while in Orange according to the 3 Rivers Risk Dial. If you need to pay lunch or have other office business please call ahead, or ring the doorbell and patiently wait outside for help. If picking a student up early, you can just call from your car and we will bring your child out to you.

*Temps are taken for staff and students twice per day. Automatic faucets/paper towel dispensers have been installed. Drinking fountains are off. Students can fill their own bottle at filling stations. Playground is disinfected twice per day. High volume electromagnetic disinfecting is done twice or more per day in restrooms, hallways, and high contact surfaces. Meals are eaten in cohort groups in their classrooms. K/1st grade eats in the lunch room with distancing. All recesses and specials take place in cohort groups. While in orange, masks are worn in all locations as much as possible and required on busses.

*Please look on Facebook for Mr. Ptomey's weekly Covid Update and the 3 Rivers Site on Wednesday's for the Risk Dial Update. We operate based on the overall average dial.

*Breakfast is served from 7:30-7:55. If your child does not eat school breakfast, please do not come until after 7:50. Elementary begins at 8:00 and dismisses at 3:38.

*Please notify the office **by phone** of absences. If you have a change in after school transportation, or after school care call before 2:00 in order for us to be able to communicate those changes will all necessary staff.

*When dropping kids off in the morning, please do so when traveling **WEST**, or pull into a parking spot. With on street drop offs, please be sure to wait in line and not pull around a vehicle while kids are exiting a vehicle.

AUGUST HIGHLIGHTS

*Cedar Bluffs Elementary has about 280 PK-5 students, 16 teachers and 10 para educators which equals about an 11:1 student teacher ratio. Grade Level Sizes are: PK-40, K-36, 1st-42, 2nd-38, 3rd-33, 4th- 38 5th-44.

*South side elementary building renovations are complete. We now have 3 newly enclosed classrooms. Next year, the north side will be done and all classrooms will be enclosed and no longer an open concept building.

*CBPS welcomed back **ALL** elementary classroom teachers this fall. We welcomed 1 new PK teacher, Kelsey Kolar and 2 resource teachers, Emily Muduna and Joanna Hill. We also welcome Becca Wolf and Kristyn Bath as paras.

*Approximately **130** students are participating in one of our fall Youth Sports Programs. All games and scrimmages will take place in town with our own students. No competition will take place for the fall against other kids from other towns and the focus this year will be skill development.

*Kids First After School Program will be engaging in a variety of activities this month. Some include math club, Get Active, Art, Board Games, Kindness Activities, Story Time, Team Building, Garden Club, Entrepreneurship and Fitness Friday's.

*Follow us on Facebook and download the Cedar Bluffs Public School app. The app has the specials calendar, weekly lunch menu and other useful quick links.

We know it was difficult for some to get into the doctor over the summer for the required physical and immunizations before entering kindergarten. Thanks to those of you who have communicated the status on your appointments. Below is the district policy regarding this:

Immunizations

Prior to enrollment, each student shall provide a written immunization history signed by a physician and parent/guardian, verifying that the student has received required vaccines so as to be protected by immunization against measles, mumps, rubella, polio, hepatitis B, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, and chicken pox. Any student who does not comply shall not be permitted to enter school unless an exemption for compliance is given. The deadline for providing this is September 15.

GO WILDCATS!

