



July 17, 2020

**Saunemin Community Consolidated School District #438
Reopening Plan**

As you are all aware, the Illinois State Board of Education announced on June 23rd, that schools would be allowed to resume in-person instruction for the 20-21 school year. ISBE sent out, at that time, a document outlining what in-person instruction should look like for districts. Since then, the Board of Education, Administration, and Staff have worked to put together a plan that takes into consideration the needs of our students as well as their safety. A survey was sent out to families. From that survey, the issue of wearing a mask for eight hours was the number one concern. Some also discussed the heat of the building. Remote Learning issues was another topic discussed. From these responses, we built a plan that we know will attempt to address these responses as well as get our students safely back into our classrooms each day.

Phase 1: August 19-October 2nd : 7:50-11:00 in-person; 12:30-2:30 Remote Learning:

While we are working on a plan to air condition parts of the building, the entire building will not be air conditioned by the time we start school. We recognize that the first several weeks of school can be miserably hot, and even more so when in a face mask. We will offer in-person instruction for 3 hours per day for the first seven weeks of school in order to accommodate for heat in our building. Students will be given mask breaks throughout the morning. Breakfast will be served in the cafeteria, following social distancing requirements, to those students who want to eat. Lunch count will be taken each day, just as we would if we were in school all day. A bag lunch will be given to those who request a lunch to take home at dismissal. Students will be dismissed at 11:00, allowed time to get home, eat lunch, and prepare for remote learning. Teachers will be available each day from 12:30-2:30 for questions from students. All new material will be presented during the morning, and practice and follow-up instruction will be given during the afternoon. Unlike the spring, grades will be given, and students will be expected to get work done or be penalized. Upon the writing of this letter, it is our intent to send Chromebooks home with students in grades 3-8. If we must return to full remote learning, we will send Chromebooks home with all students in grades K-8.

During the week of September 28th, the Administration and Board of Education will determine if we can move into Phase 2 of our reopening plan.

Phase 2: October 5-?

Once the heat of the summer and early fall subsides, we would transition into a 5-hour instructional day and remove the remote learning piece from our schedule for, most likely, the remainder of the school year. The start time would remain 7:50. The specific dismissal time for this phase will come as we move closer to implementation.



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Remote Learning:

At any point this school year, we could be forced to return to full Remote Learning. The teachers and I have already begun planning for this scenario. Teachers will spend some time each day practicing remote learning with their students so that students have a better grasp on what is expected when/if we must transition back to full remote learning. Teachers and I will also communicate our remote learning expectations to families when/if we transition to full remote learning.

Face Coverings/Social Distancing:

Per ISBE regulations, all persons in a school building must wear a face mask that covers the nose and mouth at all times except when eating. Saunemin CCSD 438 will adhere to these regulations at all times for all students, staff, and parents. Students and staff will be required to wear a mask in the building, in all outside areas(**when social distancing cannot be met**), and the school bus until ISBE relaxes these regulations. Families should begin practicing with their students now in order to get them prepared for wearing a mask. The school will have masks on hand to give to students who come to school without a mask. Families may provide their own masks, but they must remain school appropriate. If a student refuses to wear a mask, he/she will be sent home.

Because we all know the masks are uncomfortable, the staff will be giving mask breaks throughout the morning and, later on, the day. When students are outside and can social distance, they will be allowed to remove their masks. When masks are off, students must remain six feet apart.

Classrooms will be arranged to meet the social distancing guidelines as possible, and students will be reminded of social distancing while in the classrooms, hallways, and cafeteria.

Symptom Screening:

Schools have been directed to temperature check all students unless their parents have called them in certifying that their child/children are COVID-19 symptom-free. Students will have to be called in daily if families choose the self-certifying option. Students will have to be checked before they enter the building or get on the school bus otherwise. If a child is exhibiting symptoms or has a fever of 100.4 or higher, they cannot be at school. Students who must be screened at school will do so before they enter the building. Car riders will be scanned before they get out of the car. Walkers will be scanned before they come into the building. Bus riders will be scanned before they get on the bus.

If you are self-certifying your student is symptom-free, you must call the school before 7:15 each morning. If you are self-certifying your student who rides the school bus, you must provide a symptoms-screening form to the driver. This will be developed and sent home prior to the first day of school.



Symptoms at School:

If a student begins to show **new** symptoms at school or gets a fever of 100.4 or higher, the student will be sent home. According to ISBE guidelines, a student must be fever-free for 72 hours, without fever-reducing medication, and symptom-free for 10 days.

Exposure at School:

If a student, or staff member, tests positive for COVID-19 or is a trace contact because they have been around someone who tests positive for COVID-19, the school will be contacted by the Livingston County Health Department. “Those who had contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19 or is suspected of having COVID-19 infection should isolate at home and monitor for symptoms for 14 days. Close contact means the individual was within 6 feet of the individual with symptoms for more than 15 minutes.”(ISBE Guidance Document, pg. 31) If a student, or staff member, tests positive for COVID-19, or is a trace contact, the entire classroom will quarantine for 14 days and go to remote learning during that time. This determination will be made once the school is contacted by the Health Department and the case is confirmed.

Hand Hygiene:

According to the ISBE reopening guidance document, it is recommended that students wash their hands, for 20 seconds, with soap and water, upon arrival to and departure from school, before and after eating, after restroom use, upon return from the playground, and any other times necessary throughout the day. Upon entering the school, students will use alcohol-based hand sanitizers that are available in each classroom, in the cafeteria, in the gym, and in other locations throughout the building. Students will be reminded of handwashing expectations frequently.

Schoolwide Cleaning:

Classrooms will be cleaned and disinfected each day. Junior high classroom desks will be cleaned and disinfected between each class period. Deep cleaning and disinfecting of classrooms will take place each day after dismissal.

Visitors/Volunteers:

All visitors will stop at the plexiglass partition at the office door. Visitors will not be allowed to go any farther than the main entrance. For the safety of our students and staff, parents/family members will not be allowed in classrooms unless there is an extreme emergency. Classroom volunteers will also not be allowed at this time.

Community Meetings:

Community/Parent nights will be held, following current gathering guidelines, as we get closer to the start of school, which is August 19, to answer any questions. The reopening of school and how that looks has not been an easy decision for any of us. As a parent, you must decide what is best for your child/children. It is our hope that the plan described will help ease some concerns about the heat of the building, the wearing of masks, the spread of the virus, and remote learning. We also recognize that any schedule other than a full day puts a strain on parents and having to



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find childcare. Our two-phase plan allows the school to ensure proper and thorough cleaning of the building can be done while also allowing our students in-person teacher contact time five days per week. This plan will also allow teachers to practice remote learning with students and provide clearly laid out plans for afternoons and full days in the event we must return to full time remote learning.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at doughang@saunemin.org or by calling the school at 832-4421. I am available to discuss any concerns you may have or answer any questions that have been left unanswered in this plan.

Thank you for your patience, cooperation, flexibility, and understanding as we move forward in this very unprecedented time. Student and staff safety is now and has always been our number one priority.

Gary Doughan
Superintendent