

CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION

USD 439 values quality instruction and instructional strategies. Due to COVID 19, we have had to alter some of the logistics of classroom instruction but are committed to ensuring high-quality instruction to all students.

Instructional Programing General Guidance

- Staff will practice and prepare to model proper hygiene practices, such as handwashing, using hand sanitizer and social distancing techniques, including alternatives to handshakes.
- At this time all students and staff are required to wear face coverings. These coverings must cover their nose and mouths while in the buildings.
- Signage will be posted in classrooms, hallways and entrances to communicate how to reduce the spread of COVID-19.
- Staff will be trained and practice and prepare to model the proper wearing of personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Staff will be trained in trauma-informed practices to strengthen the trauma- informed culture for students.
- All staff will learn to communicate effectively and empathetically with students about the pandemic and about the necessary changes to school life.
- Administration will work to reduce class sizes as needed, and maintain adequate staffing levels for teaching and learning to occur in a safe and equitable manner.
- Social distancing will be used, as possible, by increasing space between students during in-person instruction. Understand there may be times that it will be necessary to provide close individual contact to provide comfort, private discipline or personal instruction.
- Clear dividers may be used when close contact cannot be avoided.
- Extra furniture will be removed from the classroom to increase the space available to provide distance between students.
- Furnishings with fabric and other hard-to-clean coverings will be removed from the classroom.
- Seats will be assigned and students remain seated in the classroom (carpet spots may also be assigned and used). If possible, all students will face the same direction.
- Outdoor spaces will be utilized as appropriate and available.
- Teachers will assess the need to delay academic instructional activity to start school with a focus on social and emotional learning activities that includes screening and supports to help students and adults deal with grief, loss, etc.
- Teachers will assess the students' capacity and readiness to learn and address gaps from previous year prior to focusing on academics and classroom plans.
- Socio-emotional supports will be continued throughout the school year and be integrated into students' regular learning opportunities including but not limited to Second Step (elementary) or Card Time (secondary).

- Teachers will begin the year by practicing what different learning environments may look like as schools move from one learning environment to another in response to local guidelines. For grades Pre-K to 2nd SeeSaw will be the primary tool used. Grades 3-12 will use Google classroom as the primary communication tool while students are not in the physical classroom. Google suite will be used as much as possible.
- Students or families are asked to remote in from home Google Meets will be used rather than Zoom.

Group Stability

Grade School-

- Stable, cohort groups will be used. Pre-K-K, 1-2, 3-4, 5-6.
- Students may travel in stable groupings, when feasible, for example can have recess together.
- Hallways will be socially distanced and outside walkways will be used as appropriate.
- Unnecessary materials and furniture will be removed from classrooms to maximize classroom space.
- Elementary students will have specials in their building rather than going to the secondary building.
- USD 439 will abide by the max number of people allowed to congregate as determined by the administration, state, local governments, and CDC guidelines.

Jr. High/High School-

- When feasible, stable, cohort groups will be formed within the classroom setting.
- Hallways will be one directional for safer travel between classes.
- Unnecessary materials and furniture will be removed from classrooms to maximize classroom space.
- Limit mixing of groups.
- When required by local health officials a Hybrid Model may be used. Two-day rotation (Group A meets Monday and Tuesday (participating in remote learning on off days), Group B meets Thursday and Friday (participating in remote learning on off days), all students learn remotely on Wednesdays. This allows for a deeper cleaning between static groups.
- USD 439 will abide by the max number of people allowed to congregate as determined by the administration, state, local governments and CDC guidelines.

Social Distancing

- Students interaction between students from different stable groups will be limited as much as possible.
- Maintain 6 feet social distancing when outside the classroom.
- Grade School-Playground will be divided into sections and stable groups will remain in the designated section. Sections will be rotated on a weekly basis.

Grade School

- Create individual materials/supply bags or kits to limit sharing of school supplies.
- Wipe center/shared materials after each group. Shared digital devices wiped after use; 1:1 devices used as normal.
- If sharing is not preventable, wipe/clean between uses.
- Ensure hand-washing/sanitizer after shared use of items.
- Classrooms will use electronic pencil sharpeners to reduce touchpoints.
- Supplies, manipulatives and technology should be cleaned and sanitized daily.

Jr. High/High School

- Encourage all students to have their own supplies.
- Avoid sharing of materials, if possible.
- If sharing is unavoidable, sanitize items between each use and have students wash/sanitize after use.
- Digital textbooks will be used when possible.

Specialized Classes

- Students should avoid sharing supplies, including but not limited to: instruments, art supplies, tools, calculator etc., where feasible.
- Any supplies that must be shared, such as: instruments, art supplies, tools, calculators should be cleaned and sanitized between each use.

Support Groups

- Social Distancing will be followed when feasible, clear dividers may be used when close contact cannot be avoided.
- Cohort groups will be created for the support classrooms
- Only scheduled students may be in the support classroom.
- All supplies should be cleaned and sanitized daily.

Discipline

- When possible, the principal will travel to the student who is struggling (rather than bringing the student to the office).

- If an office visit is required, the student will remain in designated space where he/she can be monitored but also a place where he/ she, as well as office staff are distanced and protected.
- Building offices will have a clear barrier/sneeze guard.

Individuals with Health Issues

- Students or staff members who have underlying conditions or risk factors identified by the CDC should communicate with their administrators about appropriate protective measures and accommodations.
- Students or staff members with household members who have underlying conditions or risk factors identified by the CDC should communicate with their administrators about appropriate protective measures and accommodations.

Emergency Safety Interventions (ESI)

- Restraint is only used as a very last resort in situations to prevent harm to the student or others, such as a guiding with the arm or safely limiting a student's movements. If a restraint is deemed necessary, a restraint that does not put the student and adult(s) face-to-face to limit exposure will be considered. Adults will wear a mask, as appropriate, when possible.