



October 15, 2020

Dear Alton School District Families:

On Monday, the Alton School District will transition to our Hybrid Learning Plan. We are so excited to welcome students back to our schools for in-person instruction! As we return to in-person learning, I would like to share some reminders and important information. Please take a moment to review this information as we prepare for the return of our students.

MASKS REQUIRED – Students and staff will be required to wear masks at all times while inside of schools and on buses. Appropriate masks should cover both the mouth and nose. Please note the Madison County Health Department has stated that neck gaiters are not acceptable face coverings and therefore, not permitted in place of face masks. Social distancing will also be employed to the highest degree possible.

SELF-CERTIFICATION OF HEALTH – Students should only come to school when they are healthy, free of symptoms and have not been in contact with sick family or friends. Each day, parents must assess their child(ren) and ensure they do not have any of the COVID-like symptoms ([click here to review symptoms](#)). By sending your child to school/placing them on a bus each day, you are self-certifying they do not present any of these symptoms. Proper self-certification is the key to maintaining a safe learning environment. Student temperatures will also be taken when they enter the school each day. Please note that students who display a COVID-like symptom(s) will be sent home immediately. Siblings of the student displaying a COVID-like symptom(s) will also be sent home, even if asymptomatic, as required by Illinois Department of Public Health guidelines for household contacts. CDC and IDPH guidelines will be followed regarding the required length of time out and/or the documentation required in returning to school.

HAND HYGIENE – Hand sanitizing stations are provided in every classroom and located throughout our hallways. Students will be asked to maintain hand hygiene throughout the day including hand sanitizing and handwashing.

SCHOOL SCHEDULES – Tomorrow (October 16) is being utilized as a Remote Planning Day so that teachers can prepare for the transition to next week's hybrid plan. No remote instruction will be provided. On Monday, October 19, students on the Red Schedule will begin in-person learning. Students on the Gray Schedule will begin in-person learning on Tuesday, October 20.

In-Person Student Schedule:

- *Alton High and Alton Middle School: 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
 - *East, North and West Elementary: 8:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.
 - *Eunice Smith, Gilson Brown, Lewis and Clark and Lovejoy: 8:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- (See school communications for Mark Twain and ECC start/end times)*

***Students are permitted to arrive at school 30 minutes before the start of school (but no sooner).**

Remote-Only Schedule:

Students at AHS and AMS receiving remote-only instruction will continue to follow their current school schedule for classes. Elementary students receiving remote-only instruction will be contacted by the new remote learning teacher regarding the daily schedule for instruction.

BUS SCHEDULES – Student bus schedules are now posted on the district website ([click here for schedules](#)). Please remember that students should arrive at their stop 10 minutes before the scheduled pick-up time.

BRING WATER – Students are encouraged to bring a bottle of water with them to school each day (AMS and AHS students should bring a clear water bottle). If a student should forget to bring water, bottles of water will be available at each school.

AFTER-SCHOOL CARE – District elementary schools will offer after-school care on days that students attend in person. These programs will begin on November 2 and additional information will be provided soon.

SCHOOL MEALS – Students at Alton Middle School and Alton High School will receive a “grab and go” meal bag when they leave each day after in-person instruction. This bag will include breakfasts and lunches. Elementary students will eat breakfast and lunch at school each day of in-person attendance (utilizing classrooms, outdoor and other spaces). Elementary students will also take a “grab and go” meal bag home for hybrid remote days. Remote-only students may pick up meal bags at Alton High School on Mondays and Wednesdays from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. each week.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES – Teachers will provide students with updated information on the school supplies needed once in-person classes begin. Students are still welcome to bring supplies on the first day of in-person attendance.

While these are only a few reminders and key pieces of information, it will be important to review this information with your child(ren) to assist in preparing for next week. Our teachers, staff and administrators are working tirelessly to plan and prepare for the return of students. Because of the significant transition next week though, we ask for your continued patience and understanding and especially during this first week of hybrid learning. Some of the non-traditional instructional formats we are providing have never been offered before and therefore, may require some adjustments for students, families and staff as we move forward. We will strive to continuously improve our level of service each day for students.

Finally, please know we understand this is still a concerning time for families and staff regarding COVID-19 and the return to in-person learning. As we have learned from other school districts around our region and state, there will be times when a student, staff member or even a classroom may need to be placed on a mandatory or precautionary quarantine. This is happening on occasion in many districts and is a necessary measure to greater protect students and staff. When the need arises to quarantine a student/group of students, direct and immediate

communication will be shared with the parents of any and all students involved. We will continue to follow the safety practices and school health guidance provided by the Illinois State Board of Education, Illinois Department of Public Health and Madison County Health Department. Please assist us in these practices by checking your child(ren) each morning for any of the symptoms discussed and then keeping them at home when a symptom(s) is apparent.

Thank you again for taking the time to review these reminders and additional information. Words cannot express how excited we are to greet students on Monday and Tuesday morning. Thank you again for your continued support!

Sincerely,

Kristie L Baumgartner

Kristie L. Baumgartner
Superintendent