

Tawas Area Schools

245 West M-55 • Tawas City, MI 48763
John R. Klinger, Superintendent
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June 30, 2021

Dear Tawas Area Staff, Students, and Families:

We are so happy to see our local COVID-19 numbers decline and restrictions greatly reduced. We are looking forward to the upcoming school year!

I have received many questions about what school will look like for the 2021-2022 school year. This update will provide you with our plans as of today, which may change should we receive public health orders from CDC, MDHHS, MIOSHA, and/or DHD2. Athletics will adhere to rules set forth by MDHHS and MHSAA.

General Information

What will our instructional model look like?

All students will attend school full-time five days per week following the published school calendar, which is on our website, www.tawas.net. We are also committed to provide our current after school programs/extracurricular offerings and are looking to expand opportunities for our students during the 2021-2022 school year.

When does school start?

Our first day of school for students is on Monday, August 30, 2021.
Staff will report Aug. 24-26 for professional development

When are Orientations?

High School orientations are as follows:

- 9th Grade-Aug. 18 from 8:00-11:00 a.m.
- 10th Grade-Aug. 18 from 12:00-3:00 p.m.
- 11th Grade-Aug. 19 from 8:00-11:00 a.m.
- 12th Grade-Aug. 19 from 12:00-3:00 p.m.

Middle School orientations are as follows:

- 5th Grade-Aug. 16 from 8:00-11:00 a.m.
- 6th Grade-Aug. 16 from 12:00-3:00 p.m.
- 7th Grade-Aug. 17 from 8:00-11:00 a.m.
- 8th Grade-Aug. 17 from 12:00-3:00 p.m.



“A Tradition of Academic Excellence”

When is the Back to School Open House?

Back to School Open Houses will take place on the evening of August 25.

- MS-5:00-7:00 p.m.
- CBE-5:30-7:30 p.m.
- HS-6:00-8:00 p.m.

What is the cost of breakfast and lunch for the 2021-2022 school year?

Mrs. Sancrant is still investigating the program she will use for the 2021-2022 school year, which will have free elements; however, a la carte items at the high school (i.e., a cookie, a bag of chips, a bottle of water, etc.) will have to be purchased with funds through an established food service account. As more information is available, we will share it out to families.

COVID-19 & Communicable Disease Protocols

Are face masks required at school?

Face masks are not required at this time and will be optional and provided by parents/guardians/district.

Will my child be required to get the COVID-19 vaccine in order to attend school?

No. The COVID-19 vaccine is not listed on the School Required Vaccination List. For more information, please see: [School Required Vaccines for Parents by MDHHS](#)

Will you separate students who are vaccinated from students who are unvaccinated?

No. Vaccination status is a personal choice.

Will students be in cohorts in the classroom or on the playground?

No. As of June 22, 2021, MDHHS has discontinued all gathering limits for residential and nonresidential settings. However, we naturally cohort students in the elementary and in some middle school grade levels, but we will not cohort students above and beyond what we already do.

Will contact tracing continue?

Schools are required to report communicable diseases to their local health department within 24 hours. Positive or probable COVID-19 cases will be reported to DHD2 following our Communicable Disease Board Policy 8450 and Michigan Law Act No. 368 of the Public Acts of 1978. For a complete list of reportable diseases, please see the following document: [2021 Reportable Diseases](#). When there is a positive or probable case within a classroom, an exposure letter will be sent home to families just as we do with other communicable diseases such as chicken pox.

Will Tawas Area Schools quarantine students?

This is still being investigated as MIOSHA does have isolation and quarantine rules in place under their safe work environment rules per P.A. 238 and these rules do differentiate between vaccinated and unvaccinated people. As more information and clarity are provided, updated information will be shared with all stakeholders.

Will student athletes need to be tested for COVID-19 to participate?

No, MDHHS and MHSAA lifted all requirements for student testing as of June 22, 2021.

We are looking forward to your child(ren) returning in August. I will send another update around mid-July. Until then, have a safe and fun 4th of July.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John R. Klinger".

John R. Klinger
Superintendent
Tawas Area Schools