

# PHES Return to Learn Plan

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The district released our Return-to-Learn plan last week. You can find this document by visiting the district website at [desotocountyschools.org](https://www.desotocountyschools.org) and visiting the tab “Covid 19 Updates.” In this plan, parent options for learning and other in-person guidelines are outlined. We will be adhering to the guidelines listed in this document. We’ve also created our school specific Return-to-Learn plan. It is our hope that this document will help answer questions you might have regarding what an in-person school day will look like at PHES.

As we stated, this plan outlines our in-person procedures. However, distance learning is an option for you. Visit the website listed above to read more about what distance learning will entail, requirements for distance learning, and how to enroll your child. Distance learning will not be as it was in the spring for elementary students. Your child will receive instruction from a teacher. Attendance is mandatory and grades will be given. Parents can register by completing the application online at <https://www.desotocountyschools.org/distancelearning>. All questions regarding distance learning can be sent to [distancelearning@dcsms.org](mailto:distancelearning@dcsms.org). The application deadline is Wednesday, July 22.

The safety of our staff and students is always our top priority. Social distancing will be in place to the greatest extent possible. Below are specific procedures we have in place that will help us maintain a safe environment.

## **Arrival:**

Students will be allowed to begin entering the building at 8:05. The tardy bell will ring at 8:40.

Bus students:

- These students will arrive to school and enter the building via the north side cafeteria entrance. There will be teachers on duty who will help students maintain social distancing as they enter the building.
- Upon entering, students will go directly to their classrooms. Staff members will be on duty at each hall to help maintain social distancing.

Car riders:

- Please do not drop your child off prior to 8:05.
- When the doors open at 8:05, students will exit their cars independently. As of now, staff will not be opening doors. However, they will be there with a warm morning greeting, such as “It’s always a great day to be a Jag!”
- If your child will need assistance exiting the car, we ask that you park in the front parking lot and walk your child to the door. Parents will not be allowed in the school.
- These students will go directly to class.

### **Dismissal:**

Even in years without social distancing, dismissal is a long process at the beginning of the year. We appreciate your patience and understanding those first few weeks as we run our plan and make adjustments as needed.

### **Car Riders**

- Car riders will be dismissed from their classrooms. As you enter the car rider line, a staff member will identify you by your PHES car rider tag. This information will be communicated to the teachers in the school. Staff will be stationed throughout the school to escort students to the car rider line. If you do not have a car rider tag, you will have to park to show identification. Any person picking up your child, must have a car tag.
- Until we have perfected this dismissal procedure, car rider dismissal will begin early (approximately around 2:30).
- Any car riders still waiting to be picked up when buses begin to dismiss will be escorted by staff members to a central location (rotunda/foyer hallway) where they will be seated (socially distanced) until they are called to dismiss.

### **Bus Riders**

- Bus riders will be dismissed by bus number from their classrooms.
- As buses are ready to be loaded, a bus number will be called over the intercom.
- Once the students hear their bus numbers, they will exit their classroom, line up (socially distanced) and follow a staff member positioned on each hall. This staff member will escort students to their bus.
- We will be limiting the amount of buses dismissed at the same time.

### **Lunch**

Lunches will be eaten in both classrooms and the lunchroom. Specific classes will be scheduled for the lunchroom and/or in-class lunches each day.

- For those eating in the lunchroom, these classes will be spaced out with tables in between each class. Times will be staggered and thorough cleaning will take place between classes.
- Multiple classes will be eating in the lunchroom at the same time; however, specific procedures and schedules will be in place to ensure that there is only one class entering the lunchroom, getting trays, and exiting the lunchroom at a time.
- While in the lunchroom, students will be seated by those they are grouped with in the classroom.
- When classes are assigned for “in room” lunches, the students needing trays will be escorted to the lunchroom to receive their tray.
- At this time, there will be no visitors allowed for lunch.

-Many elementary students need support opening their lunch materials. Please know that teachers and staff will continue to help students who need support; however, now is a great time to work on these skills with your child.

### **Classroom**

- Teachers have already begun to create alternatives to our typical classroom procedures so that unstructured/unplanned student interaction is minimal.
- Teachers are setting up their classroom so that they can spread students out as best they can given the dimensions of their room.
- An adapted version of small group/conferencing will occur. This is how our teachers best provide instruction tailored to meet your child's needs. Teachers will be creating as much space as possible to accomplish this task.
- In an effort to reduce the amount of transitions for students, teachers will travel to the switch class instead of students changing rooms.
- Students will remain in their seats unless given permission by a teacher. The students will sit with a small "team," and this will be their "team" for at least a week. The team will sit together, eat together, and play together. Social distancing guidelines will continue to be in place for student teams, as feasible, based upon furniture and space.
- We recommend all students bring a water bottle from home.
- Sharing of school supplies will be avoided.
- In an effort to decrease the amount of supplies stored in the classroom, most grade levels have identified supplies needed by 9 weeks. These supply lists and information regarding a supply drop off day will be sent out next week.

### **Hallway and Restroom**

- Specific schedules (restroom, lunch, activity, etc...) will be created so that a limited number of classes are traveling in a hallway at a time.
- Students will have scheduled opportunities during the day.
- Extra personnel has been hired by the district to routinely sanitize restrooms and other high traffic areas.
- Refillable water bottles from home are recommended for students.

### **Activity**

- We will still hold activity classes each day. The time for these classes will be shortened to allow for cleaning between each class.
- Music, Library, Art, and Health will be traveling to each class.
- When weather permits, Health and PE may take place outside.

### **Recess**

- Students will participate in recess.
- We will be dividing our outdoor areas. Classes will be given a schedule detailing which area they are assigned for a time period. Classes will rotate through the designated areas over a period of time.
- At this time, more than one class will not be playing in the same area together.

### **Visitors**

- At this time, visitors will be permitted into the building by appointment only and with administrator approval.
- Any meetings will be by appointment only at this time. Virtual meetings are encouraged.

### **Masks**

- Masks are recommended.
- If you plan for your child to wear a mask, now is a great time to practice how to properly wear and remove a mask.

### **Pullout Services**

- The details regarding 504, IEP, and gifted will be communicated to parents as school begins.
- Parents will be contacted regarding specific plans for their child.

In addition to the above procedures, students and staff will be sanitizing and washing hands frequently. Keep in mind that procedures and policies are subject to change based on CDC, MDE, and/or district guidelines. As you are preparing your children to return to school, now is a great time to practice proper handwashing with our Lil' Jags. You could also begin talking about what social distancing is and why it is important at this time.

There is a possibility that a student, groups of students, and/or classes will be faced with short term quarantines during the year. Therefore, each classroom teacher will incorporate Schoology, our online Learning Management System, regularly. This will ensure students maintain access to classwork and learning experiences when not in school.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with questions or concerns. Specific school questions can be directed to [bettye.magee@dcsms.org](mailto:bettye.magee@dcsms.org). For specific questions regarding distance learning, please email [distancelearning@dcsms.org](mailto:distancelearning@dcsms.org).