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School District of Poynette

**P.O. Box 10
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(608) 635-4347
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ADMINISTRATION
Matthew Shappell, District Administrator
Linda Dallman, Business Manager
David Fischer, Director Student Services
Mark Hoernke, High School Principal
Jerry Pritzl, Middle School Principal
Jay Hausser, Elementary Principal
Jessica McCracken, Athletic Dir./HS Asst. Principal

Dear Families,

July 23, 2020

We are in the middle of a very challenging time for our state and for public education in general. We take all safety decisions seriously and perhaps none are more challenging than the decisions involving the impacts of COVID-19. On Monday, July 20th, the Board of Education approved a preliminary plan relating to reopening schools in the Fall. This "Return to Learn" plan was designed to be flexible and react quickly to ever-changing and ever-evolving understanding of the pandemic.

The plan ([linked here](#)) includes:

- **Returning to the two starting times to lessen bus crowding (times roughly the same as 2019-20)**
- In-person instruction four days a week and virtual/remote learning on Wednesdays
- Having students in cohorts of peers that don't mix/mix very little
- Modifying how we do recess and lunch (building specific)
- Providing a 100% virtual component for families who want/need
- Using water bottle fillers instead of water fountains
- Expanded cleaning and sanitizing throughout the day (and additional deep cleaning on Wednesdays)

There's quite a bit more in the plan and we encourage families to read it. But there is still more we have to figure out and we are working together to find solutions.

The Board directed administration to "make decisions based on health and safety guidance provided by local, state, and national experts." Since the Board approved the plan on Monday we've already had to make modifications based on recommendations we received from the Department of Health Services (DHS) and the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) School Nursing and Health Service. These recommendations pertain to face coverings. For convenience, we highlighted those modifications on the plan.

Since March, uncertainty is the only certainty when it comes to the pandemic. As science learns more about the virus and all its impacts, I am confident that guidelines and recommendations will change; and that means our "Return to Learn" plan will continue to change throughout 2020-21.

We understand that you may have specific questions about your student and our principals will do their best to answer them. There will be more details about the plan provided as we get closer to the start of the year.

For minor revisions, we will provide weekly (or so) updates to the plan on our website, highlighting the changes and noting the date of the latest iteration. For any significant changes, we'll send an email and a new link to the plan. (I promise I won't email every time we fix a grammar or spelling mistake.)

We ask for your patience as our plans evolve. This plan is designed "for now" and "for safety." But it isn't "forever." Thanks for your continued support of your school district.

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Stay well and stay safe,

Matt Shappell
District Administrator
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*The mission of the School District of Poynette is to provide an education that treats each person as an individual.
We will instill within each student the love of learning and foster self-esteem and civic responsibility.
Our educational program will impart the necessary skills to excel in a changing and progressing society.*