

Social Distancing

The cohort model is the best approach and will be implemented when possible. The students would not mix with other students to the extent possible.

When possible physical distancing will be increased between individuals to reduce the risk of transmission so the following requirements will be in place:

- Masks will be mandatory when 3 feet is not possible.
- Layouts for desks, tables, chairs, and other items will be implemented to promote social distancing in classrooms and common areas.
- In-person meetings may take place with everyone wearing masks or with everyone practicing social distancing
- Employee break rooms and lunchrooms will resume use with social distancing of a minimum of three feet.
- The number of people permitted in a restroom will be determined by the size of space and layout of toilet partitions to ensure at least three feet of distance between individuals.
- Teachers' desks will be at least six feet from the nearest student desk, and desks will not face each other when transmission rates are moderate or higher.
- As much as possible through scheduling, we are reducing the movement of students and staff.
- Students will resume using an assigned locker.
- There will be space of three feet in all directions in between each person when participating in an activity such as music or physical education.

Non-essential visitors and volunteers will be reviewed by administration prior to admission to school based upon need and current status of COVID-19.

Face Masks and Other Face Coverings

Cloth face coverings are meant to protect other people in case the wearer is unknowingly infected but does not have symptoms. Since respiratory droplets are the primary way that COVID-19 is transmitted, masks are among the most critical components of risk reduction. All individuals are required to wear a face mask or other approved face covering that covers their mouth and nose while inside the school building. Other requirements and provisions are as follows:

The District will provide masks for staff upon request or staff may choose to wear their own mask. An additional allotment of masks will only be provided to specific employee groups based on their job duties and risk of exposure.

- Teachers/staff in grades K - 6 will receive masks to better facilitate interactions between teachers and younger students who rely on visual and facial cues.
- Teachers/staff are required to wear masks when social distancing is not possible.
- All students will be required to wear masks when social distancing is not possible.
- Acceptable masks include disposable surgical masks, cloth masks purchased or made from household items. Clothing and household items (like scarfs, t-shirts, sweatshirts, or towels) are not acceptable in original form for use as masks on District grounds.
- Exceptions to mask requirements will be made if wearing a mask is not possible due to medical conditions, disability impact, or other health or safety factors.
- Wearing masks is required for everyone on school buses.
- Students, faculty, and staff will be instructed on the proper way to wear face coverings.

Our student and employee mask protocols can be found at <https://sites.google.com/stockbridgevalley.org/back-to-school-updates>.