

Merino Elementary Reconvening School Plan

Mission: Support the vision and mission of Buffalo Re-4J by:

- Putting the needs and well being of our students at the forefront of our decision making.
- Ensuring a safe and healthy environment by following the guidance of the Northeast Colorado Health Department, the Colorado Department of Education, and CDC.
- Promoting access, input, and choice when determining the best course of action for students and families.
- Committing to continuous improvement while we adapt to ongoing changes and guidelines during the pandemic.



As a visionary district, we promote personal excellence, perseverance, and achievement while encouraging all to reach their fullest potential.

At Buffalo School District RE-4J, we are building tomorrow's leaders today by inspiring students to realize their fullest potential through:

- Active Engagement
- Critical thinking
- Meaningful Collaboration
- Positive Societal Contributions
- Recognizing Physical Activity as a necessity for well-being
- Multi-faceted experiences
- Meaningful Relationships

Collaboration



Vertical Discussions
Coplanning/Coteaching
Teacher and Student Partnerships
Goal Setting
Communication
Preschool Connection

Teaching Strategies



Professional Development
Differentiation
Depth of Knowledge
Implementation of curriculum and strategies
Visible Learning

Wellness



Social & Emotional Health
Nutrition
Physical Activity

Merino Elementary School Priorities

Engagement



Shift ownership of learning from teacher to student.
Provide opportunities for students to explore and expand their passions.

Options for Learning:

Buffalo School District RE-4J and Merino Elementary School are prepared to provide families with options for In-person learning, Online learning, and remote learning during the 2020-2021 school year.

- In-person learning is defined as ALL students and staff in attendance in the physical school building.
- In-person/Remote Learning Hybrid is defined as students spending part of their school week (2 days) in an In-person learning environment and part of their week (2-3 days) in a Remote Learning environment.

- Remote Learning is defined as students are learning from home for a period of time and will continue to have interaction with their teachers and peers. Depending on restrictions, staff will work from home or school.

Remote Learning days are about:

- *extending learning outside of the school building and not stopping instruction.*
- *continuing to support the social emotional well-being of our students*
- *continuous development on a program that showcases a seamless flow between classroom learning and remote learning*
- Online learning is defined as student learning that will take place completely online outside of the brick and mortar setting. Online learning plans will be based on individual students and families and will be created in partnership with students, parents, and Merino Elementary School's online learning team.

Level 1 and Level 2: In-person Learning Plan:

Our plan as of 7/17/2020 is to resume school in our building with ALL students present. Parent survey results indicated support for resuming in person instruction in the fall. While we cannot guarantee there will be no remote learning in Merino due to the ever evolving situation of this Pandemic, it is our strong desire to have our students in our classrooms beginning August 17th, 2020 for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year. In order to maintain in person learning, Merino Elementary will abide by the regulations and guidelines set forth by the experts. During In-Person learning throughout the remainder of the COVID-19 Pandemic, students will participate in school for regular school hours (8:05-3:20) in alignment with the district calendar with restrictions in place for the safety and well-being of our students and staff members. These restrictions are subject to change as the situation evolves.

General Requirements and Guidelines:

- Wellness screenings will be conducted upon arrival to school for both staff and students.
 - If an employee or child reports any of the symptoms; fever 100.4 or higher, sore throat, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, muscle aches, new loss of sense of taste or smell, exposed to someone with COVID or with symptoms the following protocol will be observed:
 - The employee or child will be sent home immediately.
 - Increased cleaning of the facility will occur.
 - Staff and students will be required to continue to be at least 6 feet apart from one another.

- The employee or child must remain home until they are fever-free (without medication) for 24 hours and 10 days have passed since their first symptom unless they have a clear alternative diagnosis from a medical provider.
 - If multiple employees or children have symptoms, we will contact our local health department.
- Visitors and volunteers will be limited.
 - Parents will be required to remain in the office area when visiting.
 - Lunch/Classroom visits will not be allowed.
- Daily and/or frequent sanitation of common areas, such as restrooms and classrooms, will occur following CDC guidelines.
- Frequent hand washing and sanitizing will be encouraged and implemented throughout the day.
- Shared items and supplies will not be allowed.
 - Students will be required to bring their own water bottles and take them home daily.
 - Each student will have his/her own school supplies and will not be allowed to share.
 - Common “shared” items such as games, puzzles, or those used for free choice or center activities will be individualized so each student has access to learning materials without having to share.
- Recess and lunch schedules/protocols will be altered to accommodate appropriate distancing.
 - Teachers will schedule wellness breaks according to student needs. Wellness breaks may be taken in the classroom or outside.
 - Meals (breakfast and lunch) may be served in the classroom.
 - Students will have access to lunch provided by the district or may choose to bring their lunch from home.
- Staff members will be required to wear a face covering. We recognize the importance of students seeing our faces and are considering options to allow for that.
- Face coverings for students under the age of 11 is at the discretion of the parents and highly encouraged in areas where social distancing cannot be maintained or in common areas where grade level cohorts might come into contact with other students. The current Executive Order requires all people age 11 and older to wear a mask unless they have a medical or other reason where it would be harmful to the student to wear one. Due to this order, all 5th and 6th grade students will be required to wear a face covering.

- Students and staff will remain in grade level groups (cohorts) to the extent possible throughout the day.
 - Staff will move to students as opposed to students moving to various areas of the building to the extent possible.
 - Co-teaching will be implemented to support students in each classroom with learning and emotional needs, as opposed to the typical small group model we traditionally use.
 - Specials teachers (P.E., Music, Art) will push into classrooms, conduct class outside when possible, or use their own classrooms as long as appropriate spacing and sanitizing measures can be achieved. Specials activities will support the safety and health guidelines stated above.
- Classrooms will be arranged in a way that allows for appropriate distancing.
 - Desks may be in rows and arranged to face one direction.
 - Students will only work in groups within the classroom where physical distancing can be achieved. Masks, face shields, or other barriers may be used to allow for group work within the classroom.
- Decisions around field trips, assemblies, and other large gatherings will be made on a case by case basis.

School Day Schedule:

Please do not have your student to school before 7:45 a.m. If you bring your child to school, please have your student wait with you in the car until the doors open at 7:45 a.m. If your student walks to school, please make sure he/she does not arrive before 7:45 a.m.

7:45-8:05 a.m.: Arrival- Students will go through the wellness screening process upon arrival and proceed to their grade level classrooms.

- Kindergarten-3rd grade students who arrive to school by car:
 - Pull up in line in the East parking lot. Drop your student(s) off in front of the door. A staff member will be present to do a health screening. Proceed around the loop in a one way fashion.
- 4th-6th grade students who arrive to school by car:
 - Pull up in line in the main parking lot by the front doors. Drop your student(s) off in front of the door. A staff member will be present to do a health screening. Proceed through the parking lot in a one way fashion.
- Students who walk to school will use the front doors and maintain appropriate social distancing while waiting for a wellness screening.

****Families with students in multiple grade levels may choose a drop off point.

Tardy students will go to the front office for a wellness screening upon arrival to school.

Students will still have the option to have breakfast at school.

8:05 a.m.-11:55 a.m.- In class learning with built in wellness breaks at the discretion of the teachers.

- 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.- Intermediate (4-6) specials
 - Push in by specials teachers
 - Outside specials

11:55 a.m.-12:35 p.m. Lunch

- Students will be dismissed one class at a time to pick up their lunches from the cafeteria OR Lunch will be delivered to the classroom in closed containers.
- Students will not put in their lunch numbers on the keypad- the point of sale person will enter the student numbers.
- Trash cans and carts will be placed outside of the classrooms for students to dispose of their lunches.

12:40 p.m.-3:20 p.m.- In class learning with built in wellness breaks at the discretion of the teachers.

- 12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m.- Primary (K-3) specials
 - Push in by specials teachers
 - Outside specials

Dismissal: In order to limit the number of students in the hallways, we will stagger dismissal.

3:15- Dismiss Kindergarten and 6th Grade

3:20- Dismiss First Grade and Fourth Grade

3:25- Dismiss Second and Third Grade

3:30- Dismiss Fifth Grade and any extra students

Level 2: In-Person/Remote Learning Hybrid

This level will follow all of the Level 1 protocol with the exception of there being a reduced number of students in the building. Classes will be split into cohorts to accommodate the capacity allowed in the In-person environment. An example of this model is Cohort A will attend In-Person learning Monday and Tuesday and engage in Remote Learning Wednesday-Friday. In-Person learning will provide students the

opportunity to create a learning plan with their teacher, receive instructions, get targeted assistance on specific skills, get questions answered, etc. Cohort B will attend In-Person learning Wednesday and Thursday and engage in Remote Learning Monday, Tuesday, and Friday. The fifth day will be used for teachers to plan, meet remotely with students if needed, communicate with students and parents, etc.

Social Emotional Support for Students

Merino Elementary is committed to supporting the social/emotional needs of our students. Mr. Tharp will be working with each classroom to support students according to their needs.

Merino Elementary is also partnering with Centennial Mental Health to promote mental health and wellness for our staff and students, as well as to provide education around the issues that may arise due to COVID 19 and students or staff becoming ill.

Level 3: Remote Learning Plan

See Remote Learning Plan Handbook. Our Remote Learning plan will be implemented in the event that we need to leave school due to a COVID-19 outbreak, a student or groups of students become ill and must stay home for an extended time, or a Stay Home order is issued.

The goals of this plan are as follows:

- *extending learning outside of the school building and not stopping instruction.*
- *continuing to support the social emotional well-being of our students*
- *continuous development on a program that showcases a seamless flow between classroom learning and remote learning*

[Remote Learning Handbook](#)

Online Learning Plan

In the event families make the decision that an online learning plan is best for their students, Merino Elementary is pleased to be able to provide one. This plan is different from our Remote Learning Plan.

Merino Elementary will partner with CDLS (Colorado Digital Learning Solutions), Edgenuity, and/or Edmentum to provide an online learning opportunity for students. These plans will be created in partnership with families and will be supported by staff

from our school. The online plan team at Merino Elementary consists of Mrs. Rank, Mr. Tharp, and Mrs. Nicolaus.