



# Pioneer School Restart Plans

July 22, 2020

# Planning and Priorities- 1










- Prioritizing overall health and well-being of our students and staff in all aspects of our planning
- Providing flexibility and options to meet the individual-specific needs of each student
  - Some students have medical conditions that increase risk
  - Some students have stronger need for in-person services, therapies and supports
  - Some students require accommodations based on their healthcare needs or disability
  - The needs of each student are unique so our approach should be too

# Planning and Priorities- 2

- Relying on guidance from medical and public health professionals
  - Sources consulted include: ODE Reset and Restart, American Academy of Pediatrics Considerations, Consultation with Ross County Health District, input from our school RN & guidance from ODH, CDC, and WHO
- Recognizing that plans may need to change and adapt depending on up to date information from medical and health professionals-  
planning for alternate scenarios
- Acknowledging that any choice has risks and benefits and communicating honest and realistic expectations

# Plan Format

Pioneer School 2020-2021 Restart and Reopening Plan Summary Sheet

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The school calendar will stay the same with the first student day on August 20<sup>th</sup>. Students may attend 5 days/week or parents may select home/virtual options. Home-based/virtual options will be based on the student's needs.</li> </ul>
<b>Transportation, Arrival &amp; Dismissal</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transportation provided by home school districts will follow the district guidelines. Contact your home school district for up to date information.</li> <li>Students transported by parents will follow a new protocol this school year. Parents will drive through a line and drop students off to a staff member without leaving their car. Staff members will also take students to the parent's car at dismissal.</li> <li>Arrival and dismissal times will be on a staggered schedule to allow for distancing. This information will be included in your back to school paperwork.</li> </ul>
<b>Distancing</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students will work at individual desks (no shared tables) and will be spaced apart.</li> <li>Staff will work to maintain 6-foot distance between students as much as possible.</li> <li>Education, visual cues and reminders will be used regularly to help students.</li> <li>Staff will limit contact with <u>students</u> but some students require close/direct contact to provide services (therapy, hand over hand, changing/feeding, etc).</li> <li>Students will not have close contact with students from other classes.</li> </ul>
<b>Health Screenings</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students and staff will do daily home symptom screening and MUST stay home if they have symptoms. <u>This is necessary to keep people safe and must be followed.</u></li> <li>Anyone who becomes sick or shows symptoms at school will be isolated and must be picked up immediately. Have plans in place. Steps will be needed before they return.</li> </ul>
<b>Masks and Handwashing</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff are required to wear masks or under some circumstances face shields. Students are expected to wear masks if able to do so and masks will be provided for students.</li> <li>Hand sanitizer will be provided in classrooms and around the school.</li> <li>Frequent supervised handwashing and hand sanitizing will be scheduled.</li> </ul>
<b>Common Areas</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Classes will be assigned to a specific bathroom. The number of people using the bathroom at one time will be limited.</li> <li>Recesses will be <u>staggered</u> and students/staff will wash hands upon re-entry.</li> <li>Group activities will be limited this school year to students in the same class and using social distancing guidelines. There will be no field trips until further notice.</li> <li>Access to hallways and common areas will be limited/scheduled when possible.</li> </ul>
<b>Cleaning &amp; Sanitizing</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Items and materials in rooms will be limited and easy to clean and sanitize.</li> <li>Student supplies will be provided by the school and will not be shared. Any items that must be shared (such as classroom iPads) will be sanitized after use.</li> <li>Enhanced cleaning procedures and frequent sanitizing of high touch surfaces will occur.</li> </ul>
<b>Meals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students will eat in their classrooms for breakfast, lunch and snack.</li> <li>No outside food may be brought in to shared.</li> <li>Students may pack lunch/snacks if they choose.</li> </ul>
<b>Visitors</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No guests/visitors are allowed inside the school unless approved in advance.</li> <li>Visitors attending IEP meetings at the school will enter through the back door and will be restricted to the conference room only.</li> </ul>
<b>Cases of COVID-19</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the event of a suspected/confirmed case, notifications will be made.</li> <li>Cleaning and follow-up steps will be in accordance with health department guidance.</li> </ul>

## Pioneer School 2020-2021 Restart and Reopening Plan

### INTRODUCTION

Our Pioneer School Restart and Reopening Plan was carefully crafted with the following priorities and principles in mind:

- The health and safety of our students and staff members is our top concern.
- Each student has unique needs. Some have underlying medical conditions that place them at greater risk of complications from COVID-19. Some students rely more on in-person supports and therapy services and would be at risk without them. Our plans strive to account for differences in the needs of students and families.
- COVID-19 is a serious health issue, and we know any decision we make about school operations will present risk along with benefits. We will rely on health professionals for reliable guidance. When creating our plans, we consulted the ODE Reset and Restart Plan, Considerations from the American Academy of Pediatrics, guidance from ODH, CDC and WHO, and consultation with the Ross County Health District.
- Our plans may need to change based on developments. We will continue to make decisions we necessary to keep people safe as possible while providing vital supports.

### CALENDAR/SCHEDULE

We will continue with our previously approved school calendar (see attached). The first day for students will be August 20, 2020.

Students will have the option to attend 5 days per week or the option of choosing a home-based or virtual learning option. If you would like to learn more about home/virtual options, please contact Regina Speas, Director of Education. In general, the home/virtual options will be tailored to the individual needs of the student and may utilize technology or other methods depending on those needs. There will be clear expectations for participation and attendance.

You must notify us of your choice by July 31, 2020. Changes can only be made at the end of the semester (December 2020 to start in January 2021) unless there is a medical reason.

### TRANSPORTATION/ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL

#### School-District Provided Transportation:

Students who are transported by their district will need to follow the guidelines of that district. Each district is making decisions about mask requirements, distancing and other issues. Please contact your district of residence to learn more about their rules regarding transportation. We will also attempt to share information from each district as it becomes available.

#### Parent Drop Off/Pick Up:

Drop off and pick up times will be staggered, and parents will follow a new protocol. Parents/caregivers will line up near the front door and will stay in their vehicles. Staff members will retrieve students from

# Calendar/Schedule

- School will start on August 20<sup>th</sup> for students
- Parents can choose for students to attend 5 days per week or can choose a home-based or virtual option
- Choice must be communicated to the school by July 31<sup>st</sup>
- Start/dismissal times may change for you, because they will be staggered

# Home/Virtual Option

- Guidelines for the home/virtual option are still being developed, but there will be more than one option and services will be tailored to the student
- If you choose this option, you can switch at the beginning of the calendar year (January 2021)
- There will be clear expectations for participation, attendance and other educational requirements

# Transportation

- School districts providing transportation have their own guidelines and requirements
- Some do require masks to be worn to use transportation
- Drop-offs and pick-ups will be at staggered times and the process will change. No parents will enter the building

# Distancing- students

- Students will sit at their own desk and use their own supplies- no shared tables
- Students from different classrooms will be kept separated from students in other classes
- Education, visual cues and reminders will be provided- students will not have close contact with other students
- We will make every effort to keep students apart but acknowledge that we can't promise this will happen 100% of the time- it will not happen for extended periods of time as students will be redirected



# Distancing- staff

- Staff will distance from students as much as possible while still providing needed supports
- Some students require close or direct contact- changing, feeding, handwashing, therapies, etc. Staff will use all appropriate precautions when distance can't be maintained
- We will limit as much as possible the number of people who provide direct care to students

# Health Screenings

- Parents should complete symptom check at home- let us know if you need a thermometer for home use
- We will complete temperature and symptom check when they arrive
- If a student shows symptoms at school or has a fever over 100, they will be isolated and must be picked up immediately- you must have plans in place for this and be available/have back up during each day
- Steps will be required before returning after illness
- We will strictly enforce this requirement to keep everyone safe

# Health Screenings- Exposure

- If a student is exposed to someone who is confirmed to have COVID-19, they cannot come to school until they have completed a quarantine and shown no symptoms for 14 days
- If a student has been in close contact with someone who is being tested or is under observation for COVID-19 OR if they have been advised by a health care provider to quarantine, they cannot come to school until the person's test come back negative or the observation/quarantine period is over

# Masks- staff

- Staff will be required to wear face masks at all times while with students or other people
- Face shields without a mask may be permitted under specific circumstances
- Staff will have access to a variety of mask options to choose from and other protective equipment (gloves, gowns) will be available as needed

# Masks- students

- Students who are able to wear masks should wear them
- Parents should be aware that some of our students will not be wearing masks due to medical conditions or disability
- Students with medical conditions that prevent it will be exempted
- Students who have difficulty tolerating a mask will be given encouragement, practice and support but we know some students may not be able to tolerate them even with encouragement
- Students may wear their own mask, but we will also have masks available

# Handwashing

- We will have a regular handwashing schedule
- Students will also have supervised handwashing when they arrive, when they re-enter the building, after using the restroom, before eating, and other designated times
- Every classroom has a sink for handwashing and each classroom will also have regular access to hand sanitizer

# Shared Spaces and Common Areas

- We will not group students from different classrooms. For example, no sign choir, no morning courtyard
- Common areas will be scheduled whenever possible- sensory room, courtyard
- Regular cleaning will occur frequently in all shared spaces and common areas

# Cleaning & Sanitizing

- We will have enhanced cleaning and disinfecting protocols in place that prioritize high touch surfaces and shared spaces
- Each classroom will have supplies to clean/sanitize throughout the day
- We also have a machine to spray areas that are difficult to clean by hand (such as playground equipment, bikes, etc)



# Meals/Food

- Students will eat breakfast, lunch and snacks in their rooms
- Students cannot bring food from home to share, but can bring their own packed lunch or snacks

# Visitors/Access to Building

- Any visitors must be preapproved before entering the building
- Visitors will be required to answer screening questions, have their temperature checked and wear a mask
- IEP and other educational meetings will be held by phone or technology when possible
- If attending in person, they will enter the back and go only to the conference room/restrooms in the back of the building

# Possible Exposure

- In the event of a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19, we will immediately close any areas where the person visited and follow a required cleaning protocol when a safe amount of time has passed
- We will make notifications to anyone potentially exposed
- We will coordinate our response with our local health department

# Possible Changes/Flexibility

- We may need to change plans based on a number of factors (county moving to red/purple category, increased community spread, exposure within the school, changing requirements or recommendations, etc.)
- We will always make the decision we think is necessary to keep everyone as safe as possible
- We know the uncertainty poses hardship and will do our best to help support students and families under any circumstance

# For more information...

- Check out our website at [www.rossdd.org](http://www.rossdd.org)
- Contact Pioneer School (If you call and don't get an answer, please leave a message because staff are working but not always at the front desk)
- You can also email Director of Education Regina Speas at [rspeas@rossdd.org](mailto:rspeas@rossdd.org)