



2921 Illinois Road · Wilmette, IL 60091

www.avoca37.org · 847-251-3587

August 19, 2021

To: The Avoca Community
Fr: Kaine Osburn, Superintendent
Re: Opening School Protocols for 2021-2022 School Year

Background

After a year of different learning schedules and protocols due to attempts to sustain a safe learning environment for students and staff and community, this memo outlines the necessary steps the school and all of us need to take so that *in-person learning can be sustained for the 2021-2022 school year*. Please refer to this document first when you have questions about how school will be operating at reopening in the Fall. As circumstances change, please be monitoring communications from the District regarding how protocols and practices might likewise change.

Protocols & Practices for Typical School Operations (7:55-3:20 for Marie Murphy; 8:25-3:00 for Avoca West)

Bus Transportation

- All bus riders and drivers are required to wear masks while on the bus.
- Bus seats will be assigned.
- Families will receive their bus stop location and time on August 23 or August 24. Thank you for your patience as locations and times will be revised slightly over the first 10 days of school as route times are monitored.
- If you or someone you know is qualified and interested in being a bus driver, [please click here](#).

Drop Off & Pick Up

- We encourage as many students to take the bus as possible in order to minimize congestion at the schools at drop off and pick up time.
- Please pay close attention to each principal's communications regarding drop off and pick up directions; following those directions will ensure that these times of day are safe and provide a calm, seamless beginning and ending to our students' days.

Schedules, Social Distancing, and Masking

- *All learning will be in-person*
- Students will follow typical learning schedules, meaning students will move from class to class as they would have prior to the pandemic.
- Every individual inside the school will be masked during school hours, per CDC and IDPH guidance, and per the Governor's Executive order.
- Students may be unmasked during outdoor learning, although at elementary lunch recess (only), we will have students wear masks due to the large number of students and supervision at that time. PE and other classes that have learning or recess outdoors may have students be

Avoca West Elementary
235 Beech Drive - Glenview, IL 60025
847-724-6800

*The mission of Avoca school District is to
maximize the unique potential of each child.*

Marie Murphy School
2921 Illinois Road- Wilmette, IL 60091
847-724-6800

unmasked.

- Students in their classrooms will typically be seated 3ft apart or more. On occasion a pair or small group of students might be seated closer than 3ft for collaboration purposes.

Lunch Service and Operations

- Every student can receive a free lunch daily when school is in session or a student can bring their own lunch.
- Please see this letter from Beth Dever, Chief School Business Official with details by [clicking here](#).
- You can see each school's August lunch menu by [clicking here](#).
- If you would like to register for the Food Meal Planner app, [click here](#).
- At lunch students will either be in the cafeteria, a gym, or outside under a tent and will be 3ft or more apart from other students. **If you would like to be a lunch supervisor, [please click here to apply](#).**
- If your student has specific dietary preferences or needs, [please click here](#).

COVID - Contact Tracing, Vaccinations Status, Quarantine, BinaxNow Rapid Antigen Testing

- Students and staff should stay home if they are sick or otherwise symptomatic
- Any vaccine eligible individual should get vaccinated as soon as possible
- If a student tests positive for COVID, then the student isolates at home for 10 days.
- If a student is determined to be a "close contact" of a COVID positive individual, then the "close contact" will quarantine for 7 days as long as they do not have symptoms.
- In the classroom, an individual is determined to be a "close contact" if they were within 3ft of a COVID positive individual for more than 15 minutes cumulatively over a 24-hour period (masked or unmasked).
- Anyone in the household of a COVID positive individual is considered a close contact.
- If an individual was a close contact but is not symptomatic, the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) may allow the school to conduct BinaxNow Rapid Antigen testing on days 1, 3, 5, and 7 after the close contact. If each test is negative, then the student may remain in school as long as they are not symptomatic.
- Likewise, any individual with symptoms other than fever may have the school nurse conduct a BinaxNow test and if the response is negative, the individual may stay in school. (This is subject to review by CCDPH)
- A vaccinated individual who is a close contact but has no symptoms is not required to quarantine.
- Students who are absent from school due to testing positive or being a close contact will receive the necessary information, materials, and communication from the classroom teacher to sustain their learning while they are absent. Classroom teachers will not be providing direct live instruction remotely.

Monitoring COVID and future school schedule decisions

- Current COVID rates and vaccination rates indicate it is safe to conduct in person schooling every day.
- It is not anticipated that COVID rates will increase to the point where remote learning is necessary. However, if there were an outbreak at a classroom or grade level, then a classroom or grade level might move to remote learning for a specific amount of time.
- Additionally, I will monitor COVID rates daily and regularly confer with township superintendents, the District's medical advisor, and staff members at the CCDPH. If it is necessary to move the entire District to remote learning, this decision will only be made after a

full consultation with those identified here; from our experience in 2020 and 2021, our staff is prepared to move to remote learning successfully if necessary.

Visitors to Schools

- Large group events involving many visitors entering the schools at one time will not be scheduled. This means that some pre-pandemic events will not take place or will have to be rescheduled.
- There will be no whole school assemblies at this time.
- Individuals dropping off materials or goods for students will not enter the building but leave them in each school's front office or front foyer.
- Individuals and small groups of visitors may be onsite for specific purposes approved by the administration.
- IEP meetings will be held remotely whenever possible, but in-person meetings might sometimes be required.

Extra Curricular Activities

Extracurricular clubs and athletics will take place, will include universal masking indoors, and will otherwise follow all relevant health department guidance. Some clubs may choose to continue remotely at this time.

Conclusion

Only our amazing sacrifices as a community - our empathy and flexibility - has gotten us to the point where we can happily focus on returning to school in-person on August 25. Circumstances might change due to COVID, but we are in a much better place than a year ago and the entire staff very much look forward to seeing our kids every day.