

THREE LAKES SCHOOL DISTRICT

Bluejay Return Plan

FALL 2020



A LETTER FROM OUR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR



Dear Three Lakes District Families,

It is with enthusiasm that I write this letter welcoming you back for the 2020-2021 school year. I find that it has been far too long since our schools heard the footsteps and voices of our students and staff, doing school the Bluejay way! On March 13, 2020, Gov. Evers announced that all Wisconsin schools were to be closed from March 18 through April 6 in response to the COVID-19 public health pandemic. Little did we know that this would only be the first step in a long journey to re-opening our doors to on-site education. April 6 was soon extended to closure for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. Despite this sudden and unexpected change in educational delivery, the district quickly moved to ensure instruction and food services would continue. Persevere we did, and we have learned a lot along the way. Not only did we manage to shift from a traditional on-site to a remote off-site instructional model, but we did it with diligence and dedication. Our learnings were many and have helped guide our decision making for the upcoming school year.

The past five months have been gearing toward our desire to return to school under a more familiar and traditional setting. As we plan for the 2020-2021 school year, we are determined to present a comprehensive plan to help parents shape their decision on returning to school. Through our surveys, community listening sessions and guidance from the Oneida County Health Department, we are prepared to meet the challenges of the current COVID-19 pandemic through thoughtful and prepared instructional delivery methods. We are committed to keeping our families, staff, students and community informed. Although it may seem like there are many uncertainties and unanswered questions, we are working hard to ensure our students will continue to have access to high-quality learning and engaging instructional experiences.

The experience of school may be different in some respects, but at the same time, the heart of our district educational programming remains firmly in place. I can assure you your district leaders and staff members are here to safeguard and educate your children, our students. I also ask for your continued support, patience and understanding as we continue to shape this new school year into a great school year.



MS. TERI MANEY
THREE LAKES DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR



PLAN OVERVIEW

***Our goal is to return to a five-day regular schedule
with increased precautions in place.***

The Three Lakes School District Board of Education has affirmed the strong preference of our parents and community to have in-person on-site education this fall.

This preference to return in person is in agreement with guidelines provided by the American Academy of Pediatrics, whose position “strongly advocates that all policy considerations for the coming school year should start with a goal of having students physically present in school.” As a district, we believe attending school supports the development and well-being of our students. The untimely closure of our schools in Spring 2020 was difficult for students and families to endure, and it is critical we get back to the business of school.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the most recent updates indicate that it is important to consider the full implications of returning to school by both in-person and virtual learning options. On July 23, 2020, the CDC stated that “the best available evidence indicates that COVID-19 poses relatively low risks to school-aged children.” The CDC also stated that aside from a child’s home, no other setting has more influence on a child’s health and well-being than school.

The district has developed a plan to mitigate risk by slowing the spread of COVID-19. Daily preventative measures including hand washing hygiene, avoiding close contact and increased cleaning practices will be in place, and these details are covered within this document. We will also monitor information released by the CDC, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, and the Oneida/Vilas County health departments. It remains our duty to respond to new information depending on the current level of transmission in our school and communities.

With this decision, we also know that some students may not be able to participate in a traditional classroom setting due to chronic health conditions or other concerns. Through current instructional programming, we can provide an engaging and appropriate education for all of our students.

KEY PRIORITIES

The Three Lakes School District has taken multiple factors into consideration when preparing our Bluejay Return Plan. First, we reviewed our educational mission and held it as the guiding principle in reopening school. From that, we identified our goal to be a return to on-site, in-person instruction for all students in a safe, engaging and happy learning environment.

The following key priorities have been identified for implementation across the district as we return to school this fall. Parents will receive more detailed information from their schools about how these priorities will be applied at their student's school building(s).

- Operations (page 4)
- Transportation (page 5)
- Personal Prevention (page 6)
- Sick Child/Staff Protocol (page 7)
- Instructional Programming (pages 8-13)



OPERATIONS

SANITIZATION AND CLEANING

Enhanced facility cleaning is perhaps the most logical step we can take to control sickness in our buildings. In our parent survey, which was emailed on July 24, most respondents strongly approved of enhanced cleaning. To accomplish this goal, we've added these precautions for the start of the 2020-21 school year.

- Enhanced daily cleaning with Clorox 360 machine, including classrooms, hallways, common spaces.
- Sanitization stations in entryway, gym, classrooms.
- Furniture/items that cannot be disinfected will be removed.
- Water fountains are closed except for water-bottle filling stations.
- Playground equipment will be wiped down between uses.
- Custodial staff will receive training and increase cleaning coverage.



VISITORS AND BUILDING ACCESS

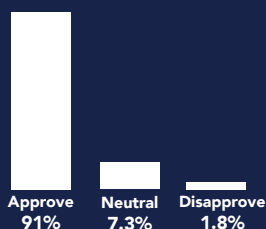
Visitor access will be restricted during school hours, and only staff and students will be allowed in school buildings. Student pick up and drop off details will be shared by building principals.

HVAC UPGRADES

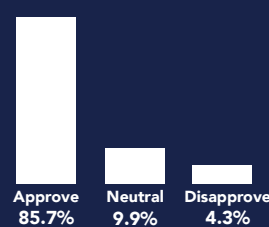
Over the summer, we've made a major upgrade to the HVAC system, which was an intentional decision so that we can provide the best air quality possible especially in the midst of the COVID-19 situation. The new system provides: increased air flow into buildings, upgraded computer software and scheduling, additional ionization and UV disinfections, and analysis of air circulation in rooms.

PARENT SURVEY

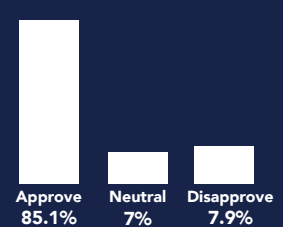
THE SCHOOL SHOULD BE THOROUGHLY CLEANED EACH DAY



AIR QUALITY SHOULD BE IMPROVED IN CLASSROOMS



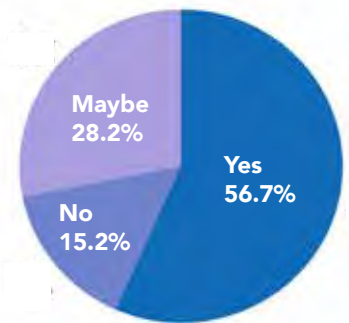
HAND SANITIZER SHOULD BE PROVIDED IN CLASSROOMS



TRANSPORTATION

PARENT FEEDBACK

In our parent survey, which was emailed on July 24, we asked our parents and guardians about their comfort level with bussing. Of 330 respondents, 187 replied that they were comfortable with bussing as we return to school; 93 respondents replied "maybe" and 50 respondents replied with "no." When asked for comments on what concerned them, respondents answered that their greatest concerns are about sick children riding the bus, maintaining social distancing between students and enforcement of mask wearing.



ARE YOU COMFORTABLE WITH BUSSING?

TRANSPORTATION SAFEGUARDS

- Buses will use seating arrangements to encourage distancing.
- Students from same home will sit together.
- Face coverings are required per state order.
- Hand sanitizer will be available on each bus.
- Additional cleaning will take place between routes.
- Parents who are uncomfortable with bussing are encouraged to consider self transportation.
- Parents will be asked to follow drop off and pick up procedures as determined by each building principal.



PERSONAL PREVENTION

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO STOP THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

- Check your child's temperature daily at home.
- When feeling sick, or if you have a fever of 100 F or more, please stay home. This is the best preventional measure we can take to keep illness out of school buildings.
- Teach good hygiene practices like frequent handwashing. At least 20 seconds!
- Regularly clean and sanitize your face coverings.

FACE COVERINGS

Face coverings are required by the district and per Gov. Evers' emergency order. That mandate reads as follows:

- "Every individual, age 5 and older, in Wisconsin shall wear a face covering if both of the following apply: The individual is indoors or in an enclosed space, other than at a private residence; and; another person or persons who are not members of an individual's household or living unit are present in the same room or enclosed space.
- Face coverings are strongly recommended in all other settings, including outdoors when it is not possible to maintain physical distancing."



SICK PROTOCOLS

WHEN TO STAY HOME

- No one — staff or student — should report to school if they are ill.
- Per the Oneida County Health Department, keep your child home if their temperature is 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit or above.
- Students are not to return to school until they have been fever free for 24 hours without the aid of a fever-reducing medication.
- If you suspect your student has COVID-19, contact the Forest, Oneida and Vilas health departments for a list of testing sites.



WHEN ILLNESS STRIKES AT SCHOOL

- If a student or staff member displays symptoms of COVID-19 while at school, they will be moved to an isolation area.
- Parents or the authorized emergency contact will be notified and required to immediately pick up the student or staff member.
- Each building will have two designated health areas. One room/area will be for routine needs including first aid, medication and minor illness such as an upset stomach. The second area will be an isolation room for students exhibiting influenza or COVID-19 symptoms. Students in the isolation area will be monitored until a parent or guardian arrives.
- Remember to update your information at school including emergency contacts.

WHEN QUARANTINE IS REQUIRED

- The Wisconsin Department of Health Services has determined guidance for students who may have tested positive or come into close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19. This is defined as being within six feet of someone for a period of 15 minutes over a 24-hour period. The school district will make arrangements for student(s) who must quarantine to receive their education through a transitional model where virtual participation and the learning management system allow for continued instruction and learning to occur.

COMMON COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

VISIT [CDC.GOV/CORONAVIRUS](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus) FOR MORE INFORMATION

- * Fever or chills
- * Cough
- * Shortness of breath
- * Fatigue
- * Muscle or body aches
- * Headache
- * New loss of taste or smell
- * Sore throat
- * Congestion or runny nose
- * Nausea or vomiting
- * Diarrhea

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

WHAT WILL SCHOOL LOOK LIKE?

This has been a challenging year, and if there's one thing we've learned it's that things change constantly. The Three Lakes District Bluejay Return Plan is really built around that idea. We have included several levels of instruction in our plan because we cannot predict how the year will unfold in regard to COVID-19. As you read through these levels, please understand that our greatest goal is to return to in-person learning. However, as situations arise, we, as a district, are prepared to face them. The Bluejay Return Plan includes four learning models: traditional, transitional, blended, and remote. It's our goal to begin school on Sept. 1 under the traditional model.

SEPT. 1 PLANS

- Return to Level 1 on-site traditional classroom instruction.
- Parents may also choose to participate in Personalized Education Plans, or PEP. Please see page 13 for more information.

RETURN-TO-SCHOOL RATIONALE

- TLSD educational programming is beyond academics, and the experience of engaged learning best occurs in our classrooms.
- TLSD has the ability to provide safe and healthy learning environments.
- TLSD acknowledges the CDC recommendation to return to in-person school.
- TLSD acknowledges the American Academy of Pediatrics' position that in-person attendance supports the emotional health needs of our students.
- TLSD recognizes childcare is a challenge faced by our families and best provided by the structured school day.
- TLSD will work to accommodate students who need alternative educational options.



Instructional Programming

TRADITIONAL MODEL

It is our goal as a district to return to a traditional, on-site, in-person learning environment. In a traditional learning model, all students attend in-person instruction five days per week. Our PEP, or personalized education plan, remains in place for those families who would like to work with the district yet receive an educational program at home. We are considering this “Level 1” of our Bluejay Return Plan.

In this learning situation, the district would enforce social distancing, frequent handwashing and other methods to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Elementary students might rotate lunch times in their classrooms, and high school students might be more spread out during their lunch periods. Classroom seating would be spaced out and outdoor classes and playtime would be highly encouraged.

- Return to on-site, in-person classroom instruction.
- All students, from early childhood to grade 12 are on campus.
- Students attend school five days per week per our district calendar.
- Personal Education Plan (PEP), a parental-based schooling option is available.
- Social distancing, masks, frequent handwashing, schedule modifications in grades 7-12, and other considerations made.



Instructional Programming

TRANSITIONAL MODEL

We understand that students or staff might become sick or need to quarantine this year. Should this occur, the district would use a transitional model to continue education. In this situation, students would be able to work remotely in a short-term situation and then rejoin classmates when well or out of quarantine. Delivery methods would be the same as the blended model or the remote model. The key difference is that the transitional model is intended for a short-term solution on a limited basis.

- Implemented by school district when a student(s) cannot be in the classroom.
- Traditional instructional model is delivered by remote/virtual classroom lessons.
- Students in grades 7-12 will use Canvas and elementary students will use Seesaw.
- Meant for short term continuity of education.
- May differ by grade level or course content.
- Traditional learning expectations, such as homework, quizzes and tests, remain in place. Students are expected to keep up with their classes.



Instructional Programming

BLENDED MODEL

If health conditions support a reduction in student numbers within our buildings, Three Lakes School District would move to a blended learning method. This would be a district-wide decision that would happen under consultation with local health departments. Blended learning is a combination of on-site and off-site learning. This is a flexible option where students might attend a portion of the week in-person and then work remotely during the rest of the week. Should a reduction in student population become necessary, we will give priority to elementary students for in-person attendance.

Students in grades 7-12 will use Canvas, our learning management system, and elementary students will use Seesaw to receive assignments and teacher feedback and lessons. Blended learning would happen in predetermined time periods to react to increased community health concerns. The district would communicate regularly with parents as the situation develops.

- Implemented to reduce student on-site presence.
- On-site priority for elementary (early childhood through sixth-grade).
- A blended on-site/virtual schedule will be tailored to grades 7-12.
- Grades 7-12 would include flexible scheduling per course requirements.



Instructional Programming

REMOTE MODEL

Remote learning is the model we all experienced in Spring 2020. However, since then, the district has assessed areas of improvement and successes to provide a better experience for families should the remote learning model become necessary.

Should our local health departments advise that we move to Level 4, staff will report to the buildings, and students will work remotely. Special education and intervention services will continue, as well as food service. The district will provide computers and internet devices as needed.

- All students receive instruction off site.
- Traditional learning program moves to pre-planned remote learning model.
- TLSD has revised and improved remote learning since Spring 2020. As we plan for 2020-21, we will have a common learning management system. Students in grades 7-12 will use Canvas for assignments, grading and more. Students in elementary will use Seesaw. Video conferences and video instruction will be a priority.
- TLSD would move to this model under direction of Oneida County Health Department or the state health department should health conditions change in our community.
- Transportation/food service would continue in the remote learning model. Just as we did in Spring 2020, bussing services would deliver food and learning materials.
- The district will provide computers and hotspots as needed.



Alternative Education Option


PERSONALIZED EDUCATION

We understand that some families might need educational alternatives this year. Another option that exists is our Personalized Education Plan, or PEP. In this scenario, students remain enrolled in our district yet receive their education through a pre-approved curriculum at home. Think of it as a partnership between the district and your family. Families control the educational component of school, but can still receive district support and even participate in school options such as band, choir, field trips and athletics.

Families can choose to select their own curriculum, which must then be approved by the district or students in grades 3-12 can use Odysseyware, which is provided by the district. Please contact Ryan Bock, dean of students, to discuss this option and set up a program for your student.

Our PEP option existed well before the COVID-19 situation, and we've had many families use this program. However, we're aware that more families than usual might need this option for 2020-21. Before making this decision, there are a few important considerations for you to make:

- This is a parent-led educational option.
- Families must commit to a PEP on a semester basis.
- Curriculum must be pre-approved by the district.
- Please inform the school of your decision to enroll in a PEP plan by Wednesday, Aug. 26.



TO LEARN MORE, CONTACT

Ryan Bock, Dean of Students
rbock@threlakessd.k12.wi.us



RESOURCES & REFERENCES

THIS PLAN WAS DEVELOPED WITH INPUT FROM

Parent and Staff Surveys
Parent, Community and Staff Listening Sessions
Three Lakes District Administrative Team
Three Lakes Board of Education
Oneida County Health Dept.
Forest County Health Dept.
Vilas County Health Dept.
Wisconsin Association of School Boards
Wisconsin Dept. of Health
Wisconsin Dept. of Public Instruction
Insurance Provider Consultation
Legal Advice
American Academy of Pediatrics
Center for Disease Control and Prevention

REVIEW OF POLICIES

Three Lakes School District will make local program decisions based on the health status of our community and appropriate best pedagogical practices.

RESOURCES

[Emergency Order #1 - Officer of the Governor](#)