

July 17, 2020

Dear Alton School District Parents and Families:

The Alton School District would like to provide our families with an overview of the 2020-2021 Alton School Reopening Plan. Please keep in mind the following is only an overview as we continue to finalize the various aspects of the final plan. The reopening plan was developed utilizing input provided by parents and staff through respective surveys as well as guidelines from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Madison County Health Department.

Under Phase 4 of Governor Pritzker's *Restore Illinois* Plan, PreK-12 schools are permitted to reopen for in-person instruction under the following IDPH guidelines:

- \*All students and staff must wear a face mask or covering.*
- \*Gatherings of more than 50 students/staff in one space are prohibited.*
- \*Social distancing should be observed to the highest degree possible.*
- \*Symptoms and temperature checks are required or individuals/parents must self-certify that their child is free of symptoms before entering a school bus or school building.*
- \*Schoolwide cleaning and disinfection is required to increase.*

It is important to note that these requirements can change due to updated public health guidance and the ever-changing public health conditions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Using these guidelines, the following will provide an overview of the reopening plan for our schools. **Please keep in mind this information could change immediately should our state or region move back to a more restrictive phase.**

### **IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION – PreK through 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Beginning Thursday, August 20, 2020, Alton School District students will receive in-person instruction daily (Monday through Friday). Students will attend a shortened day, with a compacted schedule, to maximize core instructional time while assisting with social distancing needs. Busing will be provided or parents may transport their own children.

### **REMOTE LEARNING – PreK through 12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Parents may choose the option of complete remote (virtual) learning for their child instead of in-person learning. Remote learning will be provided through synchronous (students on a computer with the teacher at the same time) and asynchronous (student watching recorded instruction at their own pace) methods. Internet access in the home is a necessity for this method of instruction (the district has limited WiFi hotspots to provide students in need). Attendance, grading and assessment requirements will be the same as those for in-person instruction. Parents registering their child for remote learning must commit to this format for the entire first semester. After the first semester, students will have the opportunity to transition to in-person instruction. *(Please note that at the high school and middle school levels, some classes may not be available through remote learning.)* **In order to prepare for the instructional needs and supports of remote learning students, parents must register their child for complete remote instruction no later**

**than Friday, July 31. Please use the following link to register for remote learning during the first semester: [REMOTE LEARNING REGISTRATION](#)**

Information on special education and related services regarding remote and in-person instruction is available [HERE](#).

**For IN-PERSON instruction, the following school schedules will be utilized:**

### **ALTON HIGH SCHOOL**

***Monday through Friday - 7:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.***

\*School will start earlier than in previous years in order to dismiss students prior to lunch.

Social distancing and group size limitations do not allow for lunch at AHS.

\*Six class periods provided with 45 minutes per class.

\*Students will be moving to different classrooms throughout the day with sanitizing measures in between classroom exchanges. Student movement in the building will be “one directional” in hallways and stairwells to the highest degree allowed.

\*Students will be provided with a “grab and go” lunch as they leave each day (bag includes the next morning’s breakfast as well).

\*Students will carry their belongings to each classes (lockers will not be used).

\*Students may remain after school for athletics, music, tutorial and other supports with an activity bus provided.

\*Early bird classes will also be offered for students interested beginning at 6:55 a.m.

\*Students may arrive up to 30 minutes before school begins.

### **ALTON MIDDLE SCHOOL**

***Monday through Friday – 7:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.***

\*School will start earlier than in previous years in order to dismiss students prior to lunch.

Social distancing and group size limitations do not allow for lunch at AMS.

\*Five class periods will be provided with 53-57 minutes per class.

\*Students will be issued an individual Chromebook for use at school and home.

\*Students will be moving to different classrooms throughout the day with sanitizing measures in between classroom exchanges. Student movement in the building will be “one directional” in hallways and stairwells to the highest degree allowed.

\*Students will be provided with a “grab and go” lunch as they leave each day (bag includes the next morning’s breakfast as well).

\*Students will carry their belongings to each class (lockers will not be used).

\*Students may remain after school for athletics, music, tutorial, 21<sup>st</sup> Century, and other supports with an activity bus provided.

\*Students may arrive up to 30 minutes before school begins.

### **INTERMEDIATE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS (East, North and West)**

***Monday through Friday – 8:30 a.m. to 1:20 p.m.***

\*Students may arrive to school up to 30 minutes before school starts.

\*Students will eat breakfast and lunch at school (using classrooms, outdoors and other spaces).

\*Students will be provided with recesses in small, class groups (outdoors when possible for mask breaks).

- \* Student movement in the building will be “one directional” in hallways and stairwells to the highest degree allowed.
- \*Before and after school programs available.
- \*Students may arrive up to 30 minutes before school begins.

**PRIMARY ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS (Eunice Smith, Gilson Brown, Lewis and Clark, Lovejoy)**

***Monday through Friday – 8:45 a.m. to 1:35 p.m.***

- \*Students may arrive to school up to 30 minutes before school starts.
- \*Students will eat breakfast and lunch at school (using classrooms, outdoors and other spaces).
- \*Students will be provided with recesses in class groups (outdoors when possible for mask breaks).
- \*Before and after school programs available.
- \*Students may arrive up to 30 minutes before school begins.

\*\*Early Childhood, Mark Twain School and Alton Success Academy schedules will be released at a later time.

**REGISTRATION:**

If you have not registered your child for school, please visit [altonschools.org](http://altonschools.org) immediately to complete this process. Current restrictions make it difficult to hold in-person registration at each school. If you need assistance, please call 474-2600.

**SAFETY AND HEALTH PROTECTIVE MEASURES:**

In order to increase student and staff safety during in-person instruction, the following will apply at all schools:

- \*All students and staff will be required to wear a face mask or face covering while inside the school and on buses. Two reusable face masks will be provided to every district student.
- \*Parents will complete a health screening of their child at home each morning and self-certify that their child is free of specifically-identified symptoms. Students will also have their temperature taken upon arrival at school each day.
- \*Increased disinfecting and sanitizing will take place in all schools before, during and after school. High-touch surface areas and other commonly used areas such as restrooms will be regularly disinfected multiple times throughout the day.
- \*Hand sanitizing stations will be located throughout each school.
- \*Buses will be sanitized after each route.
- \*Students will be limited to groups no larger than 50 in larger spaces (includes buses).
- \*Visitors to schools will be significantly restricted this year. When a school visit is required, face masks, a symptom screening and a temperature scan will be required.

**ALTERNATE PLAN OPTIONS:**

In the event changes to our region or state require additional restrictions or the Alton School District determines the need to further restrict the number of students at school, one of two alternate plans may be necessary. Our planning teams continue to plan for each of these scenarios should they be needed. These alternate plans could include:

*BLENDED LEARNING MODEL* – Students attend school using an A/B schedule (example one half of all students attend in-person Tuesdays and Thursdays and the other one half attend Wednesdays and Fridays – instruction on Mondays and the other non-attendance days are then provided remotely). This model is used to reduce the number of students at school on a given day.

*COMPLETE REMOTE LEARNING MODEL* – Should a school closure be required, students will be provided with 100% remote (virtual) instruction using both synchronous and asynchronous teaching methods. Students will be provided with the necessary technology devices.

We realize there are still many remaining questions regarding the reopening of our schools. This communication is only to provide an overview of the reopening plan. Additional information, a “Frequently Asked Questions” Guidance Document and the complete Alton Reopening Plan will be provided in the coming weeks. Please remember that if you would like to register your child for complete remote learning during the first semester, you must do so prior to **Friday, July 31**.

**In closing, we would like to thank you for your continued patience, understanding and support of our schools during these uncertain times.**

Sincerely,

*Kristie L. Baumgartner*

Kristie L. Baumgartner  
Superintendent