

**GREEN ISLE
COMMUNITY SCHOOL
#4144-07**

**BACK TO SCHOOL PLAN
FALL 2021**

August 31, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians and Community Members,

Preparations for the 2021-2022 school year have been underway throughout the summer months as we awaited updates related to returning to school and COVID-19. The team at Green Isle Community School continues to be fully committed to the safety of our students, staff, and their families.

We continue to remain focused on providing a sound educational experience with the continuation of meeting rigorous academic standards, and help students continue to develop necessary social and emotional skills. We are updating our plan for our Back to School Plan 2021.

The Back to School Plan 2021 shares details about how we will make decisions in the coming months related to COVID-19 confirmed cases and the impacts on serving students, use of facilities, food services, and transportation. The Safe Learning Plan included in this document shares an outline for students and parents regarding what a typical day may look like, and how students will access their learning by each of the three learning models.

Our plans are based on the updated CDC guidelines, with recommendations from our licensed school nurse and the MDE StaySafe MN guidelines that prioritize student and staff safety. This allows us to make informed decisions in the interest of all stakeholders.

We believe our plan will provide for the quality education our students need, with the flexibility to limit disruption and enable parents to make the choice that they believe best fits their families overall needs. We will continue to communicate with all families and community members throughout the year to keep you all informed. We look forward to seeing you all again, and working in partnership to help return our students and staff back to school safely.

Yours truly,

Green Isle Community School Administration

Back to School Basics

What You Need to Know

Health and Safety-Prioritizing Students and Staff

1. Face masks/coverings are required for all staff and students utilizing **transportation** to and from school
2. Face masks/coverings are optional to wear for all staff and students choosing to do so
3. Staff will follow enhanced cleaning protocols daily for all classrooms
4. Spaces will be modified as able to maximize social distancing
5. Students will return to eating in the school lunchroom and sharing recess
6. Students will return to multi-age homeroom and multi-age experiential learning opportunities will be offered in school, in the community, and during field trips
7. Students will be asked to continue bringing their own water bottle and water will be available to fill the bottle daily on each floor where students are learning
8. Students or staff with confirmed cases of COVID-19 will be asked to follow CDC and DHS recommended quarantine, however, close contacts will NOT be required to quarantine. Parents and staff may be notified of close contact to make a personal decision regarding testing and quarantine
9. Students and staff will be required to self test daily before coming to school and asked to stay home with symptoms of illness

Three Learning Models-WILL BE AS FOLLOWS IF REQUIRED BY FEDERAL OR STATE MANDATE at any time during the 2021-2022 school year:

1. Based on COVID-19 mandate only, Green Isle Community School will implement one of three learning options: In Person, Hybrid, and Distance Learning.
2. Upon mandate, if applicable, students will be required to come to school for face to face learning in school with masks.
3. Parents are provided with the option to select distance learning for students
4. The learning model is subject to change in accordance with County Covid cases increasing and decreasing, with the guidance of local MDH officials under mandate
5. Increasing Covid cases do not guarantee adjusting to a new learning model, and therefore parents are encouraged to wait for directives from the school directly
6. Based on current enrollment, Green Isle has the capacity to maintain students on site during Hybrid Learning, pending transportation capacity

3 Learning Options

Option One: In-Person/Face to Face Learning

- Teachers will be in classroom teaching students face to face
- Students will be social distanced in classroom in accordance with health standards
- Students and teachers wear face masks/shields/coverings in areas required
- Students and staff will be assigned to PODS to limit interaction between students outside of assigned classrooms
- Students and staff will be assigned zones that include assigned classroom, restroom, water cooler, learning materials, equipment, and entrance/exits
- Students and staff in assigned zones will rotate for recess and physical education periods to maintain a POD and limit interaction between assigned PODS and zones
- Arrival and Departure will be monitored by staff
- Breakfast and lunch will be delivered to rooms directly
- Students and staff will increase hygiene practices and classroom cleaning and sanitation of daily heavy use surface areas and equipment
- Access will be minimized for all non-student and staff members
- Visual reminders will be throughout the facility to remind students and staff to stay 6 feet apart in lines and in places they typically congregate

Option Two: Hybrid Learning

Green Isle Community School will maintain In-Person Face to Face Learning during Hybrid Adjustments unless otherwise advised by local health officials, and pending transportation capabilities and current enrollment numbers sustaining to meet 50% capacity in classrooms.

Parents will receive a survey with notification to select to remain In-Person or move to Distance Learning if levels of COVID cases increase beyond the In-Person levels.

Option Three: Distance Learning

- Students no longer attend class in school building
- Teachers will adjust instruction to operate from school or at home as staffing needs allow, and continue to provide synchronous, asynchronous, and flex learning options.
- Zoom and Google Classroom will be utilized for Distance Learning for all students
- Parents will have the ability to “Check Out” one on one learning devices
- Parents will have the ability to continue accessing school lunch with delivery options provided by the school
- School age care program will be implemented on site for critical workers
- Office hours with administrative support will remain consistent with standard hours

- Attendance will be taken daily by all teachers
- Staff will support parent technical training needs during transition
- Staff will increase parent access to staffing for support in accessing community resources including areas of food, shelter, safety, access to medical, and mental health support
- Staff will provide engagement opportunities throughout the day to bring students together virtually to engage with their classmates during distance learning

Health and Safety Checklist

Self Screening: Daily

Screening by staff and students should be done at home daily before entering the school building. If any of the following symptoms are shown, it may be an indicator of an illness that may decrease ability to learn, teach or engage, and may place others at risk. If these symptoms are exhibited, students and staff are asked to remain home and notify the school. Please check for the following daily:

- Temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher when taken by mouth
- Sore throat
- New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing
- Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain, or
- New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever

Preventions: Protective Equipment and Safety Measures

Green Isle Community School will maintain an ample amount of supplies on site and take proper precautions, including the following:

- Cleaning and disinfectant as approved and recommended for use with COVID-19 prevention by the FDA
- Hand washing and hygiene charts and instructions placed throughout the facility
- Hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes available in each classroom and throughout the school for use throughout the day
- Supply of disposable masks to be used upon request
- Enhanced facilities cleaning and sanitizing of high touch areas
- Social distancing in all spaces as able
- Soap and paper towels in all facilities
- Staff training on CDC guidance and health safety protocols
- Daily disinfecting of student equipment used
- Limiting of soft furnishings and hard to disinfect toys and personal items removed to increase usable class space

Safe Learning Plan 2021-2022

The Minnesota Department of Education's Safe Learning Plan includes the necessary guidance to enable students to participate in all three options during the school year. In part, the model used will be determined by the COVID cases in our primary resident County, Sibley County.

Plan Flexibility The opportunity to move between the *Safe Learning Plan (Face to Face/Hybrid)* and the *Distance Learning Option* is possible and should be discussed with the Director. A transition from one plan to another will be considered on a case to case basis as these decisions may need to take into account factors such as your student's academic progress, the available licensed teachers, building capacity and transportation.

Facility Operations All ventilation systems will be continuously cleaned, inspected and adjusted to provide more outside air. In addition, filtration has been replaced with a microbial treated filter that helps reduce contaminants from entering the spaces. Ventilation systems will be operated 24 hours a day to provide multiple air exchanges with no occupants.

Cleaning & Disinfecting Custodial services will be retained to provide a high level of cleaning, but have also added a disinfectant process to control the COVID-19 virus on a daily basis in each classroom to disinfect the high touch surfaces.

Three Learning Models

In-Person Learning

In-Person Learning returns all students to their normal daily schedule. Dependent on the state of the pandemic, certain health and safety precautions may be modified while others may remain in place. As of August 18, 2020, Green Isle Community School will return our students to participate in In-Person, face to face learning.

All protective methods and protocols that are recommended in the Stay Safe MN plan by both the Department of Health and Department of Education will be followed to prepare in advance for any changes in County based COVID cases that could entail changing to a Hybrid Learning model. These measures include, but are not limited to:

- Students will be assigned to grade level homerooms and will report to homerooms on arrival.
- Students will stay in their homeroom for the majority of the school day. Depending on the Special Area Class (Art, Media, Music, PE) students may leave their room or have the Special Area teacher come to deliver the lesson.
- Students and staff will be required to wear masks while they are in the building, excluding lunch and periods of exercising.

- Students will be required to follow social distance guidelines while at school.
- Increased attention to disinfecting procedures will occur daily by staff.
- Restrict nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations.

Hybrid Learning

Green Isle Community School will adhere to the capacity guidelines set forth by MDE. These restrictions indicate the maximum number of students who can safely attend in person under a hybrid model, which states we can operate at 50% capacity.

A reminder that 50% capacity does not mean 50% of students. Instead, it means 50% of the space can be filled, per the fire marshall, while maintaining social distancing requirements.

Based on current enrollment as of Fall 2020, all K- 6 students will be able to attend school 5 days a week while meeting the 6 feet of social distancing throughout the day.

- Students will be assigned to a grade level pod and will report to pods on arrival.
- Students will stay in their pod for the majority of the school day. Special Area Classes (Art, Media, Music, P.E.) will not occur as they traditionally have but will be interwoven into daily lessons.
- Students will have access to grade level teachers for instruction.
- Students and staff will be required to wear masks while they are in the building, excluding lunch and periods of exercising.
- Students will continue to access the district instructional curriculum.
- Increased attention to disinfecting procedures will occur daily by staff.
- Restrictions will be made for nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations.

Distance Learning Model

Within the Safe Learning Plan a move to Distance Learning will have students stay with the same teacher as the Face to Face and Hybrid Models. Distance Learning Students will be able to participate in the following learning activities, selected based on academic needs:

1. **Synchronous Learning** - Classroom paced/Teacher led/Parent monitoring needed. Primarily technology access with at home learning kits to match Face to Face activities. Students will follow the same in class schedule as their peers from home by using Zoom to log in and participate in the live classroom lesson delivery and instruction. Students will then have time to take a break to work on assignments, and join the class for the next lesson and/activity.

The intention is to limit the need for students to be online all day throughout the day,

yet enable them to receive the same lesson delivery as their peers, ask questions, and remain engaged with the classroom teacher as much as possible. The recording of lessons will only be during lesson delivery time, or if there is a full classroom engagement taking place. This is to focus time on teacher delivery, and protect the privacy of students when it is time to work independently and seek one on one support from classroom teachers or paras.

Student start time, breaks, and end time will be the same, and teachers will work to deliver the lesson during structured time before breaking to engage. Parents will be asked to engage students during times outside of the classroom live streaming, such as recess and physical activity time.

All assignments for students will be available for access on Google Classroom. All lessons will be recorded for review and available on Google Classroom for access. All lessons and homework will match the Face to Face lessons.

Recorded access of the lessons will be available for any missed periods, enabling students and parents to maintain some form of flexibility based on the needs that arise at home with the student and family.

2. **Asynchronous Learning** - Self paced/Parent led/Teacher daily check in and two way engagement. Students will be able to access all recorded daily classroom lessons and classroom assignments on Google Classroom the day following the lessons. Students will have scheduled check in times with the teacher to answer any questions and review progress. All activities and lessons and homework will match the Synchronous and Face to Face lessons.
3. **Flex Learning** - Collaborative learning model for enhanced learning needs of students. May include technology based learning, hybrid learning, and materials based learning with additional one on one support as assigned. All activities and lessons may not be identical to Synchronous and Asynchronous, however, will remain equitable to ensure students receive all necessary tools and resources for academic achievement.

NOTE: Parents that choose the Distance Learning Model for their children when it is not mandatory due to COVID response must keep in mind that there may be limited ability for the child to participate in certain activities or if there are onsite requirements for standardized testing. Green Isle Community School will continue to adjust and provide flexibility in these areas where possible, and offer alternative options where possible to maintain equitable access to education for our Distance Learning students.

Technology Use

Teachers will be using Zoom and Google Classroom as their primary method of delivering lessons for distance learning students. It is imperative that families communicate their technology needs. Green Isle Community School will have access to one on one learning devices to enable students to have uninterrupted access and unlimited access during school hours for distance learning.

Parents are asked to provide notice to the school if their child does not have a device that can be used at home without sharing or interruption during school hours. In addition, parents are asked to provide notice to the school if there is any limitation to internet service access and capabilities.

All classroom lessons will be recorded, while ensuring discussions that take place within the classroom. This information will be restricted to sharing with students through student access in Google Classroom only. Parents are asked to monitor use while students are accessing the classroom from home and avoid providing students log in information to any parties that are not listed with the school as primary or secondary contacts.

Online 1-1 and Tutoring Support

Some students will require more extensive support. Assigned paraprofessionals will assist teachers in creating a plan to meet students' needs.

- Examples include: Homework help time/office hours (online meetings) scheduled daily.
- Staff connected to specific students to support learning.
- Teachers scheduling one on one Zoom meeting with students.

Note: All special education services from the Special Education Teacher and assigned paraprofessionals will continue in all forms of structure based on continuation of student specific needs for service and support.

