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### **Frequently Asked Questions for the Reopening of School for 20-21**

Most of the information you are looking for can be found on links on our website. Go to [www.lassenview.org](http://www.lassenview.org) and scroll down just a bit. You can find our new schedule with times for staggered arrival and dismissal, the Tehama County School Reopening Plan, and the Appendices for Lassen View in connection with the Reopening Plan.

#### **What are the biggest changes to the school opening this year?**

There are many differences to be expected this year. The biggest changes are:

1. a staggered arrival and departure times which include different starting and dismissal times depending on how you are getting to school and home (pickup/drop-off or bus transportaton )
2. the requirement of masks or face shields for all 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students (and strongly recommended for K-2)
3. staggered recess and lunch times
4. keeping classes together with limited interaction between other classes throughout the day
5. the installation of additional hand washing stations and picnic tables for outdoor eating or instruction
6. Increased sanitation of commonly touched surfaces throughout the day
7. Temperature checks prior to entering the school grounds or school bus
8. Parent or other responsible party necessary at bus stops and drop-offs
9. Weekly minimum days (still on Wednesdays) for independent study coordination and deep cleaning
10. Visitors not allowed on campus

#### **What can I do if my child cannot wear a mask or has a lot of difficulty keeping it on?**

Face shields have been approved by the state to use instead of a face mask. We are also building barriers to put around tables and desks for an extra level of safety and for the capability of a student to take off his/her mask for a short period of time. As long as the student is seated, masks can be removed for a short time to allow the student a chance to regroup.

Be aware that face shields are not as safe as a mask because droplets can enter from under the shield.

Long-term independent study is also an option and all the information can be found on the Appendices page located on our website. Students who refuse to wear a mask in grades 3 and higher will be transitioned to long-term independent study.

### **Disagreements with Masks**

On the parent surveys, there are quite a few comments regarding unhappiness with the need to wear masks all day. In order for us to open 5 days per week, this is a mandatory component of us being able to do that. We were hoping the desk and table barriers could be put in place so students wouldn't have to wear them all day long. As for now, that request was denied and masks are necessary at all schools in the state. At some point in the near future I hope, the barriers will allow students to take off masks if they would like.

### **How are you going to ensure students maintain social distancing for their safety?**

We cannot ensure students will maintain the six foot boundaries and that is why masks are mandatory. We will do our best of balancing the need for kids to be kids and socialize while maintaining safety protocols. It is not going to be perfect and there will be an increased risk of contracting the virus by choosing 5 days per week on campus over Independent Study.

We are putting in around 25 handwashing stations outside of buildings and students will wash their hands multiple times per day. According to public health, around 95% of transmissions occur through respiratory droplets from one individual to another or by not washing hands and touching one's own face. Between the masks, barriers, and handwashing, the level of risk decreases substantially.

### **Tutoring Services**

I don't have an answer for this yet. Once school has started and we start to get used to this new routine, we will do our best to provide extra tutoring for time lost over the last few months.

### **Will breakfast be served at school?**

Yes, your child will be able to get breakfast at school. Each teacher is going to designate a 10-15 minute time to eat in the classrooms each morning. During the morning attendance call, breakfast and lunch counts will take place too. During the teacher's requested breakfast time, the number of breakfasts ordered will be delivered directly to the classroom. Students will eat breakfast in classrooms.

### **Can I get more information on Independent Study?**

Please log onto our website at [www.lassenview.org](http://www.lassenview.org). There were so many questions regarding Independent Study that we created its own link on the website. Please understand this is new to us and once we get going with it, things could change to help meet the needs of students and staff better. We are planning to coordinate live class and independent study as closely as possible so that if you transition from one to the other OR a student is absent for multiple days, their learning will be fluid.

### **What will SERRF look like this year?**

SERRF is going to look similar to what they have in the past while following the new guidelines. Masks must be worn and social distancing students when possible. This will be the one time during the day when students from different classrooms will be mixed, but unfortunately, there is no way to avoid that. SERRF will be available from the end of school until 6:00.

### **What will happen if a student or staff member tests positive?**

If we have a positive case confirmed on our site, the school will close immediately for 2-5 days at minimum. We will be in direct contact with Tehama County Mental Health to make a decision of how long to stay closed. The school will be tracking student whereabouts throughout the day and contact tracing will be shared with the health department. With a school as small as ours, it is likely we would close for up to 2 weeks and we would implement distance learning during that time.

**What will happen if students don't always social distance? They have missed their friends and will probably not always distance. They shouldn't get in trouble for that.**

Finding the balance between safety and much needed social interaction will be tricky. We are all very aware that our students won't always follow social distancing and keeping hands to selves at all times. Unless there is an intentionally dangerous action (like spitting on someone), or multiple redirections over a period of time, no one will get into trouble. The students will be reminded of the expectation but there will be no consequences to that outside of reminders of what is being asked. We very much recognize the need for students to interact and socialize.

**What happens if the school has to close again?**

As the numbers in Tehama County continue to rise, there is a growing possibility we could start in Distance Learning. If so, we will begin the school year by implementing a similar model to what we had last spring when we closed. The big difference will be the mandatory guidelines from the state. Student attendance will be taken daily and assignments will be graded. Students can plan to have 4-6 hours per day of a combination of face time and independent work time. Teachers will be online daily working with students. Students younger than 4<sup>th</sup> grade will still have mandatory time, just not as much.

If we go into Distance Learning, we won't officially start online until Wednesday, August 19<sup>th</sup>. Chromebooks and other needed items will be handed out or delivered on Monday and Tuesday (August 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>).

If we start school in-person and have to close, we will be ready to hand out all needed materials as soon as possible. After that, everything in the above paragraphs will take place.

For those with limited or no internet access, we will be providing hotspots. There is a monthly cost to that WiFi but a waiver will be available for free service.

**Please don't cut Music or Physical Education**

Your wish is granted....there are NO plans to cut either. There will be Distance Learning for both of these if we are not allowed to return.

**How will special education services be offered if the school is closed?**

There is a lot of discussion on this right now and not one clear cut answer. The most likely scenario is a blended model. For those who can access those services online, they might be delivered online. For those who can't, there could be some face time at school.

**Can we start at school and then change our mind and go to Independent Study?**

Please check the Independent Study link on the website. We have defined periods of time so we don't have multiple students coming and going through the year. For the first defined period, we have given the first two weeks of school as a time to change your mind. After that, there is an application time for the next six-week period. If there is an extenuating circumstance, Mr. Walker can approve a transition at any time.

**Was a split schedule pursued where there would be less students on campus?**

Yes. There was an option considered for having an A and B schedule where some students attended two days per week and the other group attend two days. Fridays would rotate. County Superintendents met weekly over the summer and we all came to the conclusion that 5 days per week was the best scenario for all. The County Health Department felt that the safety value of a hybrid schedule versus all students being on campus at once (with major modifications like class cohorts staying together all day) were not that much different.

Knowing how many of our parents work out of town, we realized a hybrid schedule would be a nightmare for many so it was our last option and only used if absolutely needed.

A half day schedule for all students was never strongly considered. The transportation for the school would have been very difficult to do. For some parents, that would have been a nightmare. It was my (Mr. Walker's) decision not to pursue a half-day schedule at all.

### **Will Distance Learning or Independent Study have higher expectations than when we closed in the spring?**

Yes. Either option will have much higher expectations. Our teaching staff has a training August 4th that will help us implement synchronous (live lessons like Zoom) and asynchronous (taped lessons that can be viewed at convenience) lessons. Work will be collected and graded.

Distance Learning if school closes- Attendance will be taken daily and multiple hours of live face time and taped lessons will happen. The amount of assignments will vary according to grade level with the younger students having less independent time. The older students will have a full school day requirement of lessons and assignments that will be due and graded.

Independent Study- Teachers will tape lessons and post them at a later time for students and families to access. The school work will be very consistent with what is happening in class unless other arrangements are made with Mr. Walker. Tutoring time will be set-up for students to come in and get any extra help needed. Appointments will need to be made to get that tutoring assistance and will be offered during the school day.

### **How will testing take place in Independent Study?**

For school tests and assessments, most will take place at home with confirmation from the parent that the test was done solely by the student.

For state testing, a schedule will be set-up for students to come onto campus so school personnel can supervise. Testing isn't scheduled until May and there has not been much coming out from the state on the requirements. Between now and then, a lot could change.

If any of your questions were not answered or if you could not find the answer on our website at [www.lassenview.org](http://www.lassenview.org), please email Mr. Walker at [jwalker@lassenview.org](mailto:jwalker@lassenview.org).