



**Return to School Transition Plan
Germantown Elementary School
2020-21 School Year**

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) have created guidelines for school districts to follow so that students, faculty, and staff may safely return to school. We are excited that these guidelines allow us to open our doors for in person learning. Our first day of school for K-8 students is scheduled for Monday, August 17. This will be a full day of school.

The following Clinton County Consortium schools, Albers, All Saints Academy, Aviston, Bartelso, Central Community High School, Germantown, Mater Dei Catholic High School, and St. Rose, have worked together collaboratively to draft this Return to School Transition Plan. While the overarching framework for the plan is similar in each school district, the plan has been personalized to meet each individual school's needs.

The guidelines outlined below are organized in alphabetical order.

Bus Transportation

- Passengers on the bus will wear a mask.
- Passengers will be minimized to 50 or fewer. If necessary, we will conduct mid-route drop-offs at school to maintain the 50 or fewer guideline.
- The buses will be disinfected daily.

Chromebooks/Ipads

- For K-4 students, an Ipad/chromebook will be assigned to each student for the year.
- A chromebook cart will be located in each junior high homeroom. The students will be assigned the same chromebook for the year. They will pick it up in homeroom at the beginning of each day, use it all day, and plug it back in at the end of the day homeroom.

- All devices will be disinfected regularly.

Computer Lab

- The computer lab will remain open.
- We will maximize the use of devices in the classroom to limit the need to go to the computer lab.
- The students will wash their hands before and after going to the lab.
- The computer station and surrounding area will be disinfected before and after use.

Classroom

- Tables, desks, door handles, lockers, classroom materials, etc. will be disinfected throughout the day.
- The use of shared school supplies will be eliminated.
- Classroom doors will remain open as much as possible to limit touching of door handles.

Dismissal

- Exit A: The main entrance/exit by the superintendent office.
- Exit C: The main entrance/exit on the south side of the building along Walnut Street.
- Exit D: The south entrance/exit by the Michelle Varel Reading Garden.
- Exit G: The west entrance/exit at the end of the junior high wing.
- Town Students: Students not riding a bus home.
 - Bus students will be dismissed first.
 - PK-1 students will exit the building using Exit C.
 - All other bus students will exit the building using Exit D.
 - Each wing will dismiss at staggered times to allow for less traffic in the hallways.
 - Town students will be dismissed after the bus students.
 - PK-4 town students will exit the building using Exit A.
 - 5-8 students will exit the building using Exit G.
 - Each wing will dismiss at staggered times to allow for less traffic in the hallways.
- People coming to pick up students at the end of the day are asked to remain outside to limit traffic in the building. For younger students, we suggest that parents identify a meeting area behind one of the concrete parking lot barriers. At dismissal the child will go to the meeting area. Together, the child and parent will walk to the vehicle.
- A supervisor will be stationed at each exit to monitor the dismissal of students.

Face Masks

- Face masks will be worn in the building by students, faculty, staff, and all visitors.
- While the school district will have a supply of face masks to distribute, we encourage everyone to find a mask that works for them and use it while on site.
- If an individual is unable to wear a mask, a physician's note ***must*** be provided, else the individual will be required to wear a face mask.

- We understand fully that the wearing of face masks is not an ideal component of the education experience, so our goal is to build time into the school day for outdoor lessons that allow for the students to spread out and safely take off their masks if they so choose.

Lockers

- All students will be assigned their own locker space.
- At the beginning of the school day, the students will bring their belongings to homeroom instead of their locker. From there, the teacher will dismiss students to go to their lockers.
- Small groups of students will be dismissed at staggered times at alternating lockers to limit the number of students at their locker at any given time.

Locker Room/Bathrooms

- PK-4th grades will go to the bathroom 3 or fewer students at a time.
- Junior high students will use the bathroom at staggered times.
- The junior high students will not change for PE.
- The importance of washing hands will be stressed.

Lunch

- The lunch room capacity will be limited to 50. A class will eat in their classroom or under the pavilion outside if needed. (Note: Our lunches were already structured to limit the number of students eating at one time, so this should not be much of an issue for us.)
- The students will wash their hands before/after lunch.
- Masks will be worn through the lunch line. The students will then put their mask in a Ziploc baggie labeled with their name. The baggies will be kept in their grade level tub. The students will be given their baggie back after lunch/recess.
- The students will be spread out more at the cafeteria tables.
- The cafeteria tables will be cleaned after each use. This is standard practice.
- The share table will not be utilized.
- The salad bar will remain open because it is not self-serve. The students stand behind the plexiglass, indicate what they want on their tray, and the kitchen staff places the items on their tray.

Social Distancing

- Social distancing will be enforced whenever and wherever possible.
- We will stress the importance of being considerate of others' personal space and promote social distancing guidelines.

Symptom Screening

- Children must be screened by a parent/guardian prior to coming to school every day. **It is of the utmost importance that each family practice due diligence by checking for fever and COVID-19 symptoms.**
- Prior to the start of the school day, the homeroom teacher will conduct a temperature and symptom check on each student. A student with a temperature of 100.4° F or higher will be sent to the office. Office staff will wait a few minutes and conduct another temperature check. If the student's temperature is still 100.4F or higher, the student will be sent home.
- A student must be fever-free for 72 hours without medication before returning to school after an illness, or they may return to school with medical clearance from a doctor.
- A temperature and symptom check will also be conducted on staff upon their arrival to school.

Visitors to the Building

- Visitors to the building will be limited.
- The school doors will remain locked at all times. Visitors will be asked to ring the bell to enter the building.
- Office staff will greet visitors at the door or provide instructions via the intercom for entering the building.
- A temperature and symptom check will be conducted on visitors to the building.
- Visitors will wear a mask at all times while in the building.
- Visitors will practice social distancing while in the building.
- We understand that the first week of school can be a big transition for our PreK students, so we are allowing parents to escort their children to the classroom the week of August 17. A temperature and symptom screening will be conducted prior to entering the building. Beginning on August 24, however, adults of our PreK families will need to remain outside during pick up and drop off times. A member of the PreK staff will greet families at the door.
- We understand that the first day of school is a big deal for our kindergarten students, so we are allowing parents to escort their children to the classroom on August 17. A temperature and symptom screening will be conducted prior to entering the building.

Visitors to the Office

- The office door will remain closed but the window will be open. Visitors are asked to go to the office window where Mrs. Finan will greet them.

Water Fountains

- The importance of not touching the water fountain with the mouth will be stressed.
- The water fountains will be disinfected regularly.

- The students are encouraged to bring an unopened water bottle labeled with their name to school every day.

In the event a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, the Clinton County Health Department (CCHD) will be notified. Their guidance and procedures will be followed. The CCHD will conduct contact tracing and set quarantine protocol.

If school attendance is significantly impacted by illness such that a considerably large percentage of students and/or staff are absent, the Clinton County Consortium Schools may opt to institute a shorter school day or transition to remote learning. Such decisions will be made in conjunction with the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Clinton County Health Department. Families will be notified as soon as possible of any potential changes.

Our ultimate goal is to keep the building open to in person learning. While we acknowledge that these guidelines may be less than ideal, we feel they give us our best chance at making that goal a reality. The most important thing to keep in mind is that the kids are returning to school for in-person instruction.

We continue to receive new guidance from local and state authorities on a daily basis. With that being said, this plan is subject to change.

If you have any questions, concerns, or extenuating health circumstances that need to be discussed, please call the school at 523-4253, call my cell at 830-5209, or email me at rbecker@germantownbulldogs.org.

Thank you, in advance, for partnering with us to make the most of this situation. I am confident that by working together we can turn this challenge into a success.

With Bulldog pride,

Robin Becker, Supt.
Germantown SD #60