



# Tigers Together - Safe & Well

Plans for a healthy and safe return to learning



## Academics

Students will be attending in-person unless parents specifically opt for an online/virtual learning path by calling their child's school between Friday, July 31 and Friday, August 7. The path of learning selected will be for the entire semester. In-person instruction will be five days a week with health and safety precautions in place. Online/virtual learning will be online classes with Carthage R-9 educators using an online platform (Google Classroom, Odysseyware or Seesaw), or by thumb drive for students with limited access to technology and reliable internet. School begins on Thursday, August 20, 2020.



## Social/Physical Distancing

Students and staff will avoid close contact by putting an appropriate distance between one another. We will limit the number of people in spaces or keep people in consistent groupings as much as possible to limit their interactions with others. This could look different at each school due to the differences in the spaces, and it could include: staggering the use of common spaces, including the cafeteria, playground, and other areas; rearranging furniture and equipment to move students farther apart; adjusting recess and lunch schedules to allow for more cleaning and disinfection; modifying passing periods; and changing arrival and dismissal procedures.



## Breakfast & Lunch

In an effort to limit large gatherings in situations in which physical distancing and wearing face coverings are difficult, breakfast and lunch schedules will be arranged to limit the number of students in the cafeteria. Some students will eat in their classroom periodically. Elementary students will not self-serve. Secondary students will self-serve prepackaged items. Desks and tables will be disinfected between usage. Students will wash their hands before eating. Water fountains will not be used; however, water bottle refilling stations will be open. Sharing food and utensils between students is prohibited.



## Cleaning & Disinfecting

All students and staff will frequently wash their hands with soap and water and/or will sanitize with hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Frequently touched surfaces will be routinely cleaned and disinfected. Students and staff will wash hands or use hand sanitizer before and after meals, recess, PE, library, and after using the restroom. We will provide staff spray bottles with disinfectant and microfiber cloths in every classroom.



## Health Screenings

Families and staff must stay home if sick. We will provide a daily screening questionnaire to families and staff members, so our Tiger family can screen for illness before coming to school and to work each day. During the school day, students and staff with COVID-19 symptoms will be sent to a health isolation room, and parents will be required to pick up their child as soon as possible. Siblings or others living in the same household will also be screened.



## Parents/Visitors

The only visitors we can allow in our schools are people who are present to work, like staff, substitutes, and repair workers. If you need to bring something to the school, please call the office prior to entering. A staff member will appropriately screen all visitors before given limited access to the office. IEP or 504 plan meetings will be held in schools unless parents request an alternative format (phone or virtually). All visitors will wear face coverings and will practice social distancing.



## Face Coverings

Although not 100% of the time, students and staff will use face coverings, so a barrier is created for personal protection and the protection of others. This is critical during times when students are not with a consistent group or cannot physically distance themselves (buses, hallways, arriving, and departing). We will have exemptions for students and staff with medical issues and age restrictions. We will provide each student and staff member with one reusable/washable face covering, but they may use their own if they prefer.



## Transportation

Families are encouraged to consider providing transportation to and from school, if possible. We will not be able to provide physical distancing on buses. At times, buses will run at full capacity to ensure equitable access to education for all students. Bus drivers, bus aides, and students will wear face coverings. Students will use hand sanitizer upon boarding the bus. In most situations, bus seats will be assigned and family members will sit together. Buses will be cleaned and disinfected at regular intervals, including handrails and seats.



## Extra-curricular Activities

Extra-curricular activities, including athletics and clubs, will continue as long as an in-person learning opportunity exists for students. In the event of an extended school closure, extra-curricular activities will cease. We will follow guidelines from MSHSAA. Gathering sizes and/or group restrictions are determined by local and state health departments. We will continue to work with these departments to make determinations regarding occupancy at indoor and outdoor activities.