

STANLEY COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

RETURN TO LEARNING PLAN

After seeking input from families, staff, and community, the Stanley County School District has developed a Roadmap to Return plan. Families have two options from which to choose.

The information below affords families the flexibility to choose the instructional model that will best meet their needs during these uncertain times and reflects our District's commitment to providing a high-quality educational experience, regardless of the setting.



Contents

Traditional Learning.....	1
Distance Learning.....	1
Select an Option	2
Frequently Asked Questions	2
Academics	2
Health and Safety	3
Special Services	4
Meals	5
Student Activities	5

Traditional Learning

This model represents a return to the school campus and the classroom where students will interact directly with their teacher(s) and classmates. The school day will follow the standard schedule that includes all the core classes and other subject areas– with several significant changes involving enhanced health and safety precautions.

Our goal is to create an environment that provides an opportunity for students to return to the traditional school experience, while providing safeguards to protect the health and safety of students and staff.

Health Actions on Every Campus

- Practice safe social distancing to the greatest extent possible
- Post signage and provide lessons to strongly encourage frequent hand washing and hygiene practices
- Provide hand sanitizer throughout the campus
- Increased cleaning protocols throughout the campus, including frequency and foggers
- Limit group gatherings where possible
- Strongly encourage the wearing of an appropriate face covering while on campus and at school activities
- Symptom screening for all staff and students

At the elementary school level, we are creating a cohort model, where students will spend the majority of their time on campus with the group of students in their class, including in the classroom, the cafeteria, library, and the playground. Interaction with students from other classes will be limited to the greatest extent possible. If a student displays symptom of illness, it will likely impact their cohort classmates, and not the entire school, in terms of quarantine or other interventions.

At the middle and high school level (grades 6-12), we will discourage large gatherings of students in hallways and common areas, using clear communication and signage to reinforce the message.

**Extra-curricular activities will resume and will adhere to recommendations from SDHSAA.*

Distance Learning

This full-time learning experience is designed for families who do not yet feel comfortable sending their student(s) back to school in the traditional format. In this learning model, students will independently work on assignments and maintain contact with a teacher using web-based platforms and tools, email, and phone calls.

We will offer courses for students in Junior Kindergarten through 12th grade, provided by a team of teachers who offer support between 7:45 AM and 3:45 PM, Monday through Thursday. Enrollment requires a semester-long commitment for grades 9-12, or a quarter-long commitment for grades JK-8 as well as an adult who can partner with the Distance Learning teacher by serving as the learning guide for the student, especially at the elementary and intermediate levels.

Students enrolled in the Distance Learning model must participate in all required state assessments.

Students will access their distance learning plans electronically and will need access to computer, Chromebook, or tablet and a connection to the internet.

High school students will have access to academic advisement and college planning. Graduates will earn a standard high school diploma accepted by universities, and other postsecondary programs.

Select an Option

Take time to familiarize yourself with the options, and then select the option that works best for your family and your student. All families must register for either the traditional or online learning option by August 7, 2020. A link to the registration form will be posted on the school website and sent to each family via the email address on file with the district.

Frequently Asked Questions

If you have reviewed the Frequently Asked Questions (below) and you still have a question, please email your building principal.

Academics

If a student chooses the Distance Learning option, are they able to participate in on-site extra-curricular activities?

No. The Distance Learning model is designed for families who do not yet feel comfortable sending their student(s) back to school on-site. Extra-curricular activities are an extension of the on-site school day.

Will parents and volunteers be allowed on campus?

During the school day, no outside visitors or parents will be allowed on campus (except as required for return to school programming). This topic will be revisited as conditions warrant.

Once I choose an option, can I change my mind later?

A continuous and consistent learning environment is best for student success. However, we understand parents and students might have compelling reasons to seek a transition from one option to another, so we will provide opportunities to do so after the completion of each quarter for grades JK-8, or after the completion of each semester for grades 9-12.

Will each option offer the same classes?

Core classes will be available under both options. The Distance Learning option will have limited core and elective learning opportunities that may differ from courses available in the Traditional Model.

Is the distance learning option identical to the distance learning we experienced during the final months of the 2019-20 school year?

The 2020-21 Distance Learning model will be a different learning experience from that which the students experienced last spring. Students in grades 6-12 will participate in online courses via Edgenuity and will be assigned a distance learning teacher to answer questions, encourage students, and provide support. Students in grades JK-5 will participate in an online learning platform via Moby Max. Moby Max is an online program that offers a comprehensive curriculum in all content areas and meets the South Dakota State Standards. There will be a Stanley County Elementary teacher as the teacher of record for this option.

Under the Traditional model, will elementary students be able to have recess?

Yes. Recess will be organized to emphasize cohort grouping and social distancing. Playground equipment will be cleaned multiple times per day.

If I choose the Distance Learning option will I need to have my own computer or laptop?

For students in grades JK-5, adequate access to a device and an internet connection is required. A laptop or Chromebook may be checked out to students in grades JK-5 base upon need and

availability. All students in grades 6-12 are issued Chromebooks and will need internet access. Contact administration if you need assistance with internet accessibility and connectivity.

Will teachers be expected to teach in both the Traditional and Distance Learning model?

No. Generally, staff members will either teach in-person on campus in the Traditional Learning model or will teach electronically in the Distance Learning model. However, at the secondary level staff may be assigned a Distance Learning course.

Has the start date for the 2020-2021 school year changed?

Yes. We will delay the start of school until Wednesday, August 26.

What will elementary encore (Art, Computer, Music, Physical Education, Etc.) scheduling look like?

Encore course for elementary students will only be part of the traditional model. On-site encore programming may be altered in response to COVID-19 developments.

Will each learning model have a consistent Learning Management System to deliver instruction?

Yes. In the middle and high school's traditional learning model, Google Classroom will be used to support face to face instruction, and Edgenuity will be the delivery system for middle and high school students choosing the Distance Learning option. At the elementary level, an online learning platform is being developed.

Health and Safety

Will students and staff wear masks and/or face shields on campus?

The District will strongly recommend and encourage staff and students wear appropriate masks while on campus. All Stanley County classrooms will adhere to the plan as stated by the District. Parents will need to provide masks for their child to wear in school. The school will provide a disposable mask for students who may not have a face covering for the day or otherwise as needed. Staff will be provided clear face shields/masks. Staff will be expected to wear face shields and/or masks if working in close proximity of students for extended periods of time.

Will students be expected to socially distance?

Students will be socially distanced to the extent possible. At the elementary school level, where social distancing will be difficult, students will spend most of the school day interacting only with students in their class. By limiting their exposure to a small number of students, we reduce the chance of infection. In most cases, if a student becomes ill, the immediate class is affected, not the entire school. At the secondary level, social distancing will be practiced to the extent possible.

What steps will be taken to ensure that surfaces are clean in classrooms?

School custodians will clean frequently touched surfaces throughout the day and conduct overall cleanings at the conclusion of every day. Other non-custodial staff members will be expected to do their part to keep surfaces clean. Teachers will have access to cleaning supplies for their classroom.

What other steps are being taken to ensure a healthy environment?

The Stanley County School District will partner with parents in educating students on the importance of staying home when sick, washing hands, practicing good hygiene, and maintaining social distancing. The Student Symptoms Screening Checklist is to be completed at home, prior to arrival, and during the morning on a routine basis. Hand sanitizer will be made available in classrooms and workplaces.

What will my student's school do if a classmate or staff member is exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms?

The district will follow the recommended process/procedures as outlined by the South Dakota Department of Health. <https://doe.sd.gov/coronavirus/startingwell.aspx>

What if a student or staff member's COVID-19 test is confirmed positive?

The South Dakota Department of Health or medical provider will notify the district if a student or staff member tests positive. The school will notify applicable families, while not specifically identifying the student or staff member. We will cooperate with the Department of Health and assist with the notification of individuals who have been deemed a close contact with the confirmed case. This follows the recommended process/procedures as outlined by the South Dakota Department of Health. <https://doe.sd.gov/coronavirus/startingwell.aspx>

Will I receive communication if there is a confirmed positive case of COVID-19 in my child's school?

Yes, all families will be informed at the district level. This follows the recommended process/procedures as outlined by the South Dakota Department of Health. <https://doe.sd.gov/coronavirus/startingwell.aspx>

Will I receive communication if my child is deemed a close contact?

Yes, you will receive direct communication and will be instructed as to how to proceed. This follows the recommended process/procedures as outlined by the South Dakota Department of Health. <https://doe.sd.gov/coronavirus/startingwell.aspx>

Will I receive communication if an individual in my child's classroom is quarantined due to being a close contact or exhibiting symptoms?

No. The act of quarantine is a proactive precautionary approach to isolate a potential infection. An individual that is required to quarantine due to being a close contact of a person with a positive COVID-19 test will not result in communication to parents. Only confirmed positive cases, by the Department of Health or a medical provider, will be communicated to families. This follows the recommended process/procedures as outlined by the South Dakota Department of Health.

Will the general public be informed of an individual's COVID-19 test results?

No. We will not disclose an individual's health information, including the result of a COVID-19 test. Such an action would be a violation of Federal Law (HIPAA). This follows the recommended process/procedures as outlined by the South Dakota Department of Health.

What is the Stanley County School District doing to promote a safe environment for staff?

In addition to the safety precautions described above, all staff will be provided a face shield and cloth face covering.

Special Services

Will the district be completing special education evaluations when school reopens?

The Stanley County School District will continue to identify, locate, and evaluate students suspected of having a disability and needing special education and related services. At the same time, we will be mindful that students have been displaced from their typical learning environment when initiating the referral process. Evaluations may require in-person contact with students or observations of students in educational settings. In-person evaluations conducted by our staff will be administered while adhering to the South Dakota Department of Health guidelines for the safety of students and staff.

How will Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings take place?

We are committed to providing families an opportunity to have meaningful participation in the special education process. Whether in-person or an alternative format, such as

videoconferencing or by phone, IEP teams will partner with families to determine the most practical format to conduct IEP meetings.

Will students with Individual Education Plans (IEPs) or 504 Plans receive accommodations for the Distance Learning option?

Distance Learning students will have access to many accommodations that naturally occur in the virtual setting. In addition, teachers may be able to provide additional accommodations per a student's IEP or Section 504 Plan if the accommodation(s) is/are applicable to the Distance Learning environment. In cases where accommodations are not available the IEP team will meet and amend the IEP.

Meals

What steps will be taken to limit exposure in the school cafeteria?

Disposable service ware will be used. Students will be socially distanced within the cafeteria. Hand sanitizer will be available in all dining areas.

Will juniors and seniors have open campus lunch?

Yes, Juniors and seniors will have open campus lunches. All other students will be required to eat lunch in the lunchroom. Furthermore, beginning this school year students in grades 6-12 will be separated into two (2) separate lunch session of 25 minutes each.

Student Activities

Will activities still be offered during the 2020-2021 school year?

Yes, we will offer activities during the 2020-2021 school year. We will be following the recommendations and guidelines from the SDHSAA.

Why are activities allowed and not assemblies, field trips, pep rallies, and dances?

Extra-curricular activities are a key component to providing a well-rounded educational experience. Research demonstrates activities positively impact the social and emotional well-being of students. Most activities have a smaller, more select crowd. At this time, only in-district facility use is permitted, which includes designated school sponsored extra-curricular activities.

Will participants be required to wear masks?



Not during competition or practice, but they will be strongly encouraged to wear masks while riding the bus to and from events. The wearing of masks may reduce the potential need to quarantine due to close contact exposure.

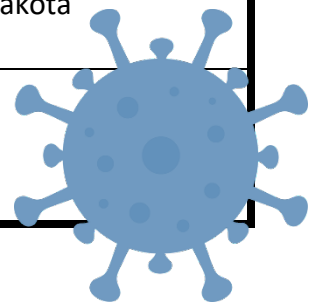
Will spectators at activities be required to wear masks?

To be determined. The district will follow the Tier System recommended by the SDHSAA, a decision on wearing masks will be forth coming. The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) reviewed the latest science and affirms that cloth face coverings are a critical tool in the fight against COVID-19 that could reduce the spread of the disease, particularly when used universally within communities.

Parents must complete a daily symptom screening check by answering these questions before sending their child to school.

Has your child had close contact (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes) with a confirmed case of COVID-19?	___ Yes	___ No
Does your child have new or worsening shortness of breath?	___ Yes	___ No
Does your child have new or worsening cough?	___ Yes	___ No
Does your child have a fever of 100.4 or greater?	___ Yes	___ No
Does your child have chills?	___ Yes	___ No
Does your child have diarrhea?	___ Yes	___ No
Does your child have unexplained muscle pain?	___ Yes	___ No
Does your child have a headache (not related to a known health condition i.e. migraines)?	___ Yes	___ No
Does your child have a sore throat?	___ Yes	___ No
Does your child have a new loss of taste or smell?	___ Yes	___ No
Has your child been vomiting or is experiencing nausea?	___ Yes	___ No

	<p>If YES to ANY of the questions DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL. Please seek guidance from your medical provider. Contact your school to inform them of your child’s symptoms. You may also contact the South Dakota Department of Health at 1-800-592-1861 with questions.</p>
	<p>If NO to ALL questions, go to school</p>



FALL 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

Student Name _____ Grade _____

Program Expectations and Guidelines

- Student will remain enrolled full-time in the Stanley County School District.
- Instruction will be provided via an on-line learning platform for core content areas.
- Families will need to provide Internet access.
- Student who is eligible for special services will continue to receive those services on-line (Special Education, Title Reading, and 504).
- Student will not be allowed to participate in extra-curricular activities.
- A District staff member will make direct contact with students two times per week to identify assignments, monitor progress, and submit final grades for report cards/transcripts.
- Student will be required to complete weekly assignments.
- Student will be allowed to return to their assigned school/classroom at the end of each semester.
- Families would need to notify their school principal by Wednesday, August 12, 2020, if they are selecting this option for the first semester.
- Quality completion of work assigned will be required for final grades and course credit.
- If a student does not abide by these expectations, truancy will be filed when applicable and/or the remote virtual learning option could be rescinded.

I have reviewed and understand the above guidelines and expectations of the Stanley County Schools Remote Virtual Learning Program. I understand that if my child does not make adequate weekly progress or follow through with weekly check-in times, that truancy will be filed.

Parent/Guardian Printed Name

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

South Dakota school districts are required to have plans in place to ensure continuity of educational services should the state's COVID-19 metrics change significantly, requiring additional restrictions to control the spread of the disease. These zones will be the foundation for a successful and agile academic school year.

Green Zone: School is open

Inform parents/families/students of distance platforms that will be integrated into regular instruction.

- Distribute 1:1 technology (6 through 12).
- Secure Inventory, User Agreements/Insurance signatures etc. for equipment.
- Train staff on Google Tools (Google Classroom)
- Train elementary staff on other tools that will be used. (Seesaw and Google Classroom)
- Integrate Distance Learning methods into regular instruction
- Train students on schedules/responsibilities etc should Yellow or Red Zone be initiated.
- Initiate routine classroom cleaning procedures. (shared tools, materials, etc.)
- Initiate reasonable distancing measures while learning (desks, items that cannot be washed, masks, passing in hallway)
- School is closed to outside visitors

Yellow Zone: School is open with additional mitigation strategies

- Distribute technology (JK-5 as needed/available).
- Secure Inventory, User Agreements/Insurance signatures etc. for equipment.
- Inform parents/families of minimized contact measures by building.
- Increased isolation measures by building/classroom.(PE no contact activities, students remain within a limited number of classrooms)
- Increase use of Distance Learning tools within classrooms
- Modify and specify academic expectations to more closely mirror Red Zone workload etc..
- Additional prep of students for 2 week closure plans. (expected schedule of homework, Zoom meetings etc.)
- Communication to staff of expectations during Distance Learning Delivery

Red Zone: School is closed with move to Distance Learning Delivery, re-evaluate as conditions warrant

- Inform parents/families of the move to closure.
- Initiate distance learning
- Continued communication with stakeholders

Stop the Spread of Germs

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.

