

Kell Grade School

Return to School Plan

Adopted Thursday, SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

Revised July 15, 2021

Introduction

Sweeping through the world in early 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in major upheaval to all aspects of life, including unprecedented school closures in the spring and fall of 2020. To open schools for in-person instruction required strict health and safety protocols which created barriers and limitations to teaching and learning. Recognizing that students across remote and in-person settings faced significant academic, social, emotional, and mental health challenges as a result of the interrupted education and the trauma caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S. Congress made emergency funds available to local school districts to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19. Most recently, funds available through the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act require that school districts develop a *Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services*. As such, this plan has been developed in accordance with the ARP Act and the Illinois State Superintendent of Education declaration of July 9, 2021; is aligned with guidance provided by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); and addresses adjustments needed in response to evolving COVID-19 pandemic circumstances.

Goal of E-Learning/Remote Learning Days

Our goal is to provide a continuity of learning, as we strive for a quality experience for both students and staff. Our Remote Learning Day will mimic the five-hour clock day in terms of teacher mandated work hours and student homework as required by Illinois State Statute. We have developed a system to meet the needs of the school community, where teachers will provide meaningful work for the students.

Benefits of E-Learning/Remote Learning Days

- Allows for the end of the school year to be more predictable and constant, regardless of the number of emergency days.
- As structured, it allows educators to advance learning more effectively, given the ability to plan within the normal school year.
- Ensures that the end of the year activities, like graduation, are maintained.
- Promotes flexible learning and operations in the digital age.
- Promotes learning beyond the school walls.

Program Expectations

Teachers will provide appropriate and meaningful lessons either online or in paper/pencil format. As required under Section 10-19.05, each student must receive at least 5 clock hours of instruction or school work.

Students will be offered access to technology and devices that may be needed to successfully complete school work, provided the necessary agreements have been signed by the student and parent/guardians.

To adequately meet the required amount of clock hours, the following will be used as a guideline for student work on Remote Learning Days. These guidelines will be used in

conjunction with instructional minutes and may be altered slightly as long as the 5 clock hours are met:

- Junior High students will be provided approximately 30 minutes of work per class, per day.
- Elementary students will be provided approximately 20 minutes of work per class, per day.

Lessons will be specific to each grade level:

- Lessons will try to integrate as seamlessly as possible into the regular instruction that has been occurring in the class.
- Tasks should be meaningful and important to students and learning.
- Utilize digital tools and platforms as part of their regular instruction.
- Attendance will be monitored through feedback from the Remind Service.
- Those with paper and pencil work will be supplied with materials and be sent home with students prior to the Remote Learning Day.
- Teachers will be present/available electronically from 9:00AM – 12:00PM on Remote Learning Days.
- Parents will be notified of Remote Learning Days through the use of the district's Remind Service.
- Remote Learning assignments are treated like every other assignment given in class. They are expected to be completed, otherwise the student will not receive credit.
- Any issues that arise during the program will be communicated to administration.
- A letter will be sent out yearly explaining the process and this policy will be located on the district website, as well as the district handbook.

E-Learning/ Remote Learning Days for students with IEPs & 504 Plans

- Students with Individual Education Plans or 504 Plans will follow lessons provided by classroom teachers and will include appropriate accommodations for the student.
- All lessons will be appropriate and follow the students' IEP and 504 guidelines.
- Case managers will include, in the student's IEP and 504 Plan, the needed (if any) accommodations that would be implemented on the day that Remote Learning takes place.

Kell Elementary and Jr. High School

1. Teachers will provide appropriate and meaningful lessons online or in paper/pencil format.
2. Teachers will be available electronically from 9:00AM – 12:00PM each Remote Learning Day to answer questions via email.
3. Teachers will send Remote Learning Day assignments with students before the planned day. Assignments for each class will be clearly marked as a Remote Learning Day assignment and be attached to the Remote Learning Day Form for each class.

4. If an online lesson is assigned, it will be posted by the teacher by 9:00AM of the Remote Learning Day.
5. Remote Learning Day assignments are treated like every other assignment given in the class. They are expected to be completed, otherwise the student will not receive credit for work.

Certified Staff Expectations

- Certified Staff Members must be available electronically during the hours of 9:00AM – 12:00PM each Remote Learning Day.
- Unless extreme conditions exist, Certified Staff Members may work at the school or from home.
- Certified Staff Members will complete required online training as prescribed by district administration during Remote Learning Days.

Educational Support Personnel Expectations

- Assignments will vary depending on the nature of duties.
- Secretarial and Administrative Assistants will complete required online trainings and may work from the office or from home.
- Teachers with special assignments will complete required online trainings and may work at the school or from home.
- Paraprofessionals, kitchen staff, bus drivers, nurses, and custodians will complete online trainings and other duties as prescribed by district administration.
- Options may be made available to any employee who wishes to work on site with an approved plan by district administration.

Return to School Plan

These procedures have been developed by district personnel from Marion County Schools in conjunction with the Marion County Health Department based on the most recent guidance document from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH).

Overview

During Phase 4, ISBE/IDPH guidelines will:

- Require use of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including face coverings
- Prohibit more than 50 individuals from gathering in one space to the greatest extent possible
- Require social distancing be observed to the greatest extent possible
- Require that schools conduct symptom screenings and temperature checks
- Require an increase in schoolwide cleaning and disinfection.

Masks/Face Coverings

Per the CDC/IDPH/ISBE COVID guidelines, Kell Grade School will proceed with the recommendation of wearing masks for in-person learning by students, faculty, staff, and visitors. Masks are required on public transportation (school buses.)

Masks/face coverings do not need to be worn outside if social distance is maintained. Students may use their own mask/face covering approved by the District. It is recommended that each child have at least two washable face masks for personal use. This will allow the greatest comfort to the student. School districts will provide students with masks/face coverings in the event that a staff member, student, or visitor does not have one for use.

Symptom Screenings

All students and school personnel will be screened daily for symptoms of COVID-19. Temperatures will be taken upon entrance to the building and students will be asked questions about if they are experiencing any symptoms related to COVID-19. Individuals who have a temperature greater than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit/38 degrees Celsius or currently known symptoms of COVID-19, such as fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, fatigue, muscle and body aches, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, congestion or runny nose, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea, will be sent to the isolation room for follow-up with the school nurse or school personnel.

Attendance

Students or school personnel will be removed from school for a period of 10 school days if exhibiting any one (1) of the following:

- Temperature greater than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit/38 degrees Celsius
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea

Students or school personnel will be removed from school for a period of 10 school days if exhibiting two (2) or more of the following:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Fatigue
- Muscle and body aches
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Loss of taste or smell
- Congestion or runny nose

Students or school personnel in Close Contact with an individual experiencing symptoms or that has tested positive for COVID-19 will be removed from school for a period of 10 school days.

Return to School

Students or school personnel will remain out of school for a period of 10 school days and must be fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing drugs. If a student or school personnel obtains a negative COVID-19 test and has been fever free for 24 hours, they may also return to school.

COVID-19 Testing

Marion County currently has two methods for COVID-19 testing. [SSM Health](#) or Salem Township Hospital, 618-548-3194.

Stay Home

Parents are urged to keep their student home if they exhibit any COVID-19 symptoms. Your student attending school could cause other students to be exposed and removed from school. School districts have removed attendance policies and attendance incentives to encourage students to stay home when exhibiting symptoms to allow the school to continue without further exposure to other students and staff.

Visitors to the Building

All visitor access to the building will be limited, including parent and family visitors. Visitors must wear a mask upon entering and remaining in the building. Visitors will only be allowed to enter school and the office.