



CENTRAL DEWITT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

These are questions submitted by parents, faculty, and staff through surveys and other communication. This information may change as we continue modifying our Return to Learn plans or as we receive new guidance from the Iowa Department of Education, the Iowa Department of Public Health, or Clinton County Health Department.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

1

Will everyone still be expected to maintain 6 foot distancing even if wearing a mask?

We will do the best we can to social distance but it is not required and cannot be guaranteed.

2

Are we required to keep 6 feet distance in building? What will this look like lining up and walking in hallways to specials for example (if attending specials in their rooms). How can we make sure all kids are staying apart while walking to those classes.

We will do the best we can to social distance but it is not required and cannot be guaranteed.

3

What is the MAXIMUM number of students we can expect in each class? We are already on a 2 day blocked schedule (like the hybrid model) so unless there are many families opting for all-online learning, won't our class sizes still be between 15-25?

If we are 100% online, class sizes will be similar to sizes in the past. If we are running on a hybrid plan, our goal is 16 or less when possible. However, there might be some instances we cannot get down to that number.

4

Can students share materials and/or work with partners/small groups?

Here is the guidance regarding shared materials: Consider protocols to minimize shared use of personal and classroom materials (eg. headsets, tablets/laptops, other technology, writing utensils, etc). When using individual/personal classroom materials is not possible, develop procedures for cleaning shared materials safely (e.g., headsets, writing utensils, keyboards, mouse/mice, manipulatives, white boards, etc.)

5

Will there be time built in between classes to disinfect desks, sink handles, soap dispensers, doorknobs, pencil sharpeners, and other classroom supplies before the next group arrives?

Custodians will be cleaning and disinfecting restrooms daily with a non-acid disinfectant. The Disinfectant we are using has a 72 hour kill claim with a 10 minute dwell time on the label. Classroom desks will be disinfected every 2 days or as needed using the same products. All high touch surfaces such as entry doors to the buildings and classrooms and light switches will be cleaned daily or as needed throughout the day.

Bus drivers will be using a different product that comes in aerosol/fogging cans that can be sprayed at the end of each day that will completely disinfect the bus in 10 minutes of dwell time and remain active for at least 24 hours.

6

What additional measures will be taken to disinfect our buildings/buses/school equipment? Who is responsible for additional cleaning (teachers/staff/custodians)?

This will be a shared responsibility for all. Custodians will be following a cleaning schedule but it will be all hands on deck whenever needed and possible. Drivers will be disinfecting buses after routes.

7

Will we be hiring another nurse or nurse assistant so we have coverage at all times in both buildings.
We have posted a job listing for a Student Health & Nurse Assistant with the intentions of hiring before school begins. <https://www.cd-csd.org/district/employment/?category=Student+Support+Services>

8

At the elementary level, what about math manipulatives? How often will they need to be cleaned even if students have a set assigned to them?
We will work through this at the building level to establish clear expectations regarding shared materials. We will look to explore how we can use technology as a substitute for students to use on their personalized device.

MASKS

1

How are you prepared to handle students who purposefully cough on other students, pull off each other's masks, cough on their hands and touch classroom items, etc. because they find those actions amusing? High schoolers were already coughing on people and joking about COVID before we shut school down.
This will be a disciplinary situation just like any other disciplinary situation

2

What do we say to parents when they do not want their child wearing a mask for 30+ hours a week?
We will say that we certainly understand their perspective, and appreciate their opinion. We all have our own opinions, but what we're going to follow as a school district is the guidance of the Iowa Department of Education and Iowa Department of Public Health. If they recommend we require masks, that's what we're going to do.

3

What will happen if a child forgets their mask at home? What will happen if the mask becomes an issue (child sneezes and the mask is snot covered inside, child is bothered by the mask and is having a difficult time learning)? Will teachers be able to take their students outside so they can have a break from the mask or will masks be required outside as well?
We will have extra disposable masks in the offices and at the entrances. Students and staff will not enter our buildings or buses without face coverings. Students and teachers can certainly go outside. Masks are going to be required while students are in our care.

4

Do you really think we will be able to keep masks on students properly?
The expectation is that students will wear a mask.

5

What are teachers supposed to do if a child refuses to wear a mask (or parents excuse their child from mask wearing)? Can we be forced to allow that student in our classroom and increase the risk to other students and ourselves? We are the front line and I hope the district won't force us to risk our health or the health of our families.
Parents are not allowed to excuse their child from wearing a mask. The expectation is for everyone to wear masks or it becomes a disciplinary issue.

6

We will be providing mask breaks for our students by going outside and getting some fresh air at different times during the day, as long as we can guarantee social distancing.

INSTRUCTIONAL PROCEDURES

1

Regarding Art, Music, and P.E. at Ekstrand, will those teachers teach in their own rooms, or will they be required to travel to each individual classroom?
We are exploring a wide variety of different options regarding what environment would be best to serve students during specials. This will be a conversation at the building level to determine how we can be in line with the health and safety guidelines while keeping in mind the feasibility of each possible option.

2

I thought I heard that the 50% in-person was only mandatory for core subjects??
That is correct, however, we intend to offer our full spectrum of courses and subjects, whether in-person, hybrid, or virtual.

3

So does that mean that art/P.E/music teachers will be laid off if we go all virtual?

No

4

Gov. Reynolds' big motive was that kids need to get back to their social lives, as well as they rely on school for mental health. Are we able to invest in any kind of curriculum or program to assist us/them with this? Or what resources, free or paid, are available to do this, being that students have had tough times coping with all of this as well?

There is not a curriculum we can buy that will address the social emotional needs of every student. We will work closely with our counseling department to work through this. We will continue our current guidance set up with classroom lessons and small group/individual support. We also have the services of the therapist through Bridgeview that we can use as appropriate.

5

Will grades at the high school be reported as standards that convert to a letter grade again or will pass/fail be used?

We will not be using pass/fail-credit/no credit this year. We will convert to letter grades as we have used in the past.

6

Will groups such as WIN or reading take place this year with children from different classes being grouped together and traveling to different classrooms?

We will be doing the best to keep groups in their cohorts. There may be instances in which a small percentage of students may have to leave their cohorts to receive services. In those instances it will be required that attendance is taken.

7

Will students be allowed to sing (general music, grades Pre-K-5 & choir, grades 6-12)? Will students be allowed to play wind instruments (grades 3-12)?

We will be following the recommendations from the Iowa High School Music Association from the ongoing study they are doing regarding singing and playing instruments. <https://bit.ly/2DgPBxo>

8

If we choose the online learning option for our family, will my child still take state assessments?

Yes, if your family chooses online learning, your child will still need to take state assessments. At this time, there are two assessments required by the state:

■ ***FAST Universal Screener: This is administered three times per year, at the beginning, middle, and end. We are working on the details and will keep you all posted but this assessment will be able to be taken in your home on the school provided device (laptop or iPad)***

■ ***Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP): This assessment is given in the Spring to every student across the state in grades 3rd-11th. We do not have details about what the administration of this assessment will look like for families in the online option but will keep you posted as the year progresses.***

SPECIAL NEEDS

1

Will students be grouped in pods to limit exposure? If so how will that look for students who are in self contained classrooms going out for classes that are listed on their IEP's?

We are going to cohort students as much as possible in grades K-6. IEP teams will be exploring the delivery model for students on IEPs.

2

If we do the hybrid learning, how will special education student's minutes be met?

Minutes will be determined case by case within the IEP team. They will be documented and logged on page I of the IEP. Special education teachers will be receiving additional guidance regarding this from their building administrators.

3

Who will be responsible for meeting the minutes of IEP students if those student's parents choose to keep them home because they are in the high risk category? Will it be the teacher who has these students on their roster? Will that teacher be required to do in person, possibly online (if in hybrid model) and go to the students homes to meet their minutes?

These decisions will be made collectively within the IEP team for each particular student.

1

Will students be allowed to use lockers since it would be difficult to social distance in hallways? If not, what will be the plan to store student belongings?

Lockers will not be used at the middle school and high school. Book bags/computer bags will be used and belongings will stay with students. At Ekstrand, lockers will be used for those classrooms that do not have the storage availability within the room itself. Procedures will need to be in place to reduce the number of students at the lockers at any given time.

2

And what about lunches?

We are working with the Nutrition Department to help with social distancing and have a plan to use different areas such as the atrium in high school.

3

Will the drinking fountains be open?

No, but water bottle refill stations will be. Students and staff are encouraged to bring water bottles to school.

4

Will students be able to utilize books from our classroom libraries or do we need to close them?

Here is a blog post from Pernille Ripp that talks about how she is going to handle classroom libraries. This is not the only acceptable solution but one that would allow classroom libraries to be used. Building level discussions can also provide clarity for this question. <https://bit.ly/3jXNEXe>

5

Who will clean? When? How often? What will the cleaning consist of?

Custodians will be cleaning and disinfecting restrooms daily with a non-acid disinfectant. The disinfectant we are using has a 72-hour kill claim with a 10 minute dwell time on the label.

Classroom desks will be disinfected every two days or as needed using the same products. All high-touch surfaces, such as entry doors to the buildings and classrooms and light switches, will be cleaned daily or as needed throughout the day.

Each classroom will be provided with hand sanitizer and cleaning supplies to be used by school staff at any time.

6

How many students do you expect to be in our classrooms together?

It depends on the class, grade level, etc. If we're In-Person, it will be all of our students. If we're using a Hybrid approach, it will be roughly half of our students. If we're in Virtual, there won't be any students in our classrooms unless we're making special arrangements for students that need it most.

7

For lower grades with hooks in room for coats/backpacks - those hooks are very close and usually the kids belongings are touching, and there's even more students in room this year. How do we accommodate this and give children enough space?

Each classroom will establish a procedure to limit the number of students putting away or gathering belongings before and after school.

8

Studies have shown that the wall AC units are the most dangerous in terms of spreading the virus. What measures will be taken to make sure rooms have adequate safe air flow?

Our "wall" units are 2-stage heat pumps that are not bringing in outside air. Outside air is brought into the building by make-up air units on the roof that is filtered before entering the building. They are not a typical window air unit.

EXTRACURRICULARS/TRANSPORTATION

1

What are the district's plans to alleviate/prevent crowding on buses? How will dismissal be handled to maintain social distancing?

We are not able to maintain social distancing on buses. Masks will be required. Dismissal will be handled on a building level and will be communicated to staff as we approach the beginning of the year.

2

With 100% in-person instruction, will all extracurriculars at the MS/HS be held?

At this point, everything would be a go. We would follow the guidance of each governing body for our different extracurricular activities.

3

With the hybrid model, how does that change participation at the HS with current policies regarding attendance.

The current attendance policies will be followed when the student is scheduled to be in the building. On their off days, parents and students will be advised to keep a student home who is not feeling well, otherwise they will be able to attend after school activities.

4

Will fall sports still be held if we are in a hybrid model-why have a hybrid model if high school students will be exposed to many more student athletes while practicing ? Seems to negate the reason to be in hybrid.

We will follow the state level guidance regarding fall sports.

HYBRID MODEL

1

On opposite days when students aren't with us in the classroom, who is teaching them via the platform the district has chosen for that grade level? Are teachers going to be responsible for teaching online and in person each day of the week? How does the district envision this looking?

We would envision teachers being responsible for delivering direct instruction for those students who are in session. Those at home would be doing independent work that would align with the instruction that had been delivered during their face-to-face days.

2

Will every Wednesday still be an early-dismissal for professional development?

Yes, professional development and teacher work time

3

Would we still run a regular 6-day schedule? How will shared staff be impacted?

At the Intermediate School, if we are in-Person we will follow the 6 day schedule. Shared staff situations will be worked through by building principals

4

In the hybrid model, are ALL teachers (specials included) going to be teaching? How will all be held accountable?

All teachers will be teaching to their standards, regardless of the instructional model we are using.

5

How will it be determined who is in which group. Going by last name alphabetically, we have some classrooms that have 16 kids with last names A - M and 3 kids with names N - Z. Will classes be rearranged to ensure maximum social distancing? Will kids attending the same daycare attend school on the same day to minimize additional exposure?

Our priority is keeping family/household groups together. We are starting alphabetically with splitting our students into groups, while also knowing changes will be made to that, based on class sizes.

6

In the email it says: Hybrid Plan- This plan was designed to meet the Iowa Department of Education's 50% in-person learning requirement. Can we get a link to that requirement to view for ourselves?

[Link to Proclamation](#)

DISTRICT MODEL

1

Have the district plans changed since the governor's proclamation? If so, how?

There have been several proclamations that we continue to adjust to. We were originally planning for Wednesdays to be off in the Hybrid model for Virtual Learning and bringing students in that are the most at-risk. The most recent guidance indicates when we should be in-person, hybrid, or virtual.

2

What will determine if a whole school has to go to virtual learning and quarantine? Just a few cases in building? Large # of cases? At what point will we switch to this for our safety?

Please refer to the state guidelines listed in the [Return to Learn Handbook](#).

FAMILIES

1

If a parent decides to homeschool, are they allowed to change their mind if things would happen to improve?

Parents who homeschool are always welcome to register and join their resident public school any time.

2

Or if a parent plans to send their child to school, can they change their mind and start homeschooling?

Likewise, parents can choose to withdraw from their resident public school and homeschool any time.

3

If a family opts for online learning, is Edgenuity their only option or can they do 100% online with our district? Are they signed up for Edgenuity for a semester or an entire year?

After much discussion and thought, we are choosing not to move forward with Edgenuity as the online instruction provider. We are instead going to offer families an online option provided by our own teachers. Families do not have to commit to a full semester since our teachers will provide learning.

CHILDCARE

1

We will not be providing childcare in the district for employees. This is a resource to search for licensed daycare in our area. <https://ccmis.dhs.state.ia.us/clientportal/ProviderSearch.aspx>

LOGISTICS

1

When kids arrive at school do they come directly to our classrooms? Do they stay in our rooms until their bus arrives?

Each building principal is working out the procedures for student arrival and dismissal that would limit student's congregating together.

SCHEDULES

1

Will students be able to unpack their backpacks? This is one opportunity we have to clarify where students are going after school.

Open House/Unpack Your Backpack has been canceled please consider alternative options to welcome your students and families to the beginning of the 20-21 school year. Here is a [blog post](#) from Pernille Ripp that explores some options.

2

Last year we were told all Clinton County Schools needed to run on the same calendar. Are these R2L plans consistent with the other Clinton County Schools?

Getting all districts on a common calendar was a goal, pre-Covid. At this time we are focused on doing what is best for our district students and staff.

1

Will students be able to leave for work experiences? And if not, that is a major void to fill for some students.
It will really depend on the workplaces and what each student is required to do.

2

Does the Iowa Association of School Boards trump what the State suggests or mandates?
No

3

Who was involved in the creation of the R2L plan? Any teachers? Other non administrative staff? Students? Community members?

The Return to Learn plan is an ongoing document. We are in the process of getting feedback from teachers through department/grade level team meetings with building principals. In all honesty, the backbone of the plan does not offer opportunity for much input. We knew we had to have the models, the input we are gathering now are the logistics inherent in each plan. We will continue to seek feedback regarding logistics and content within the three plans. The initial work included health experts, the nutrition department, and maintenance department.

4

Has there been any discussion on if we will be able to host student teachers and college practicum students?
We are still hosting student teachers.
