

Dear Parents/Guardians of Chilton Elementary School children,

Thank you so much for your patience as we work toward a “Return to Learning” plan that will mitigate the risk of virus transfer while still meeting the social, emotional, mental, and academic learning needs of students. There are no easy answers and no exact right way – we worked to follow the DPI guidelines, CDC guidelines, and Health Department guidelines and tried to incorporate what we could while still being realistic. You will be asked to make a decision for your child(ren) to attend school either in person or virtually when you register your child for the year on Info-snap. (More information from the superintendent will be sent soon about this). I am providing all of the information I currently have below so that you can make an informed decision. If you decide on virtual education – you can return to in person at the quarters. If you decide to attend in-person – you can decide to go virtually at any time and that decision will be in place until the next quarter of school starts – then you can continue virtually or decide to return to in person. Basically – we can’t have switching back and forth on a daily or weekly basis. If a family quarantine situation exists – those decisions of virtually vs return to school will be made on an individual basis depending on the surrounding circumstances.

### **In person return to learning**

- Students and staff will have morning temperature checks
- Hand sanitizer will be at all classroom doors and at sanitizing stations throughout the building – it will be used before entering and exiting the classrooms
- Due to the Governor’s mandate - face coverings will be required for students – students will have “mask breaks” when they are able to be outside – and when they are eating or drinking
- Students and staff will be educated on properly washing hands and everyday protective measures to prevent the spread of respiratory diseases, like COVID-19. Educational signs will be posted throughout the building.
- There will be education regarding the proper use of a face covering – wearing, removal, washing
- Staff will wear a mask with any close interaction with a child
- Students will be in classroom groups (cohorts) throughout the day. There will not be any combination of grade level classes at recess or lunch.
- Students will not share spaces such as the gym, music room, art room, library, cafeteria etc. – specialist teachers will come to the classrooms

- Students working with staff 1:1 or in small groups will use protective barriers and the space will be sanitized between groups
- Students will be outside for phy-ed, music and for other learning activities during the day – weather permitting
- Recess will be in classroom groups that are supervised by 1 staff member – playground spaces will rotate for classes and recess items will be sanitized – students will hand sanitize before and after recess
- Students will eat lunch in the classroom
- Exiting and entering of the building or transitioning of spaces will be planned to minimize classroom groups being in the hallway at the same time
- Classrooms have been configured so that students in 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> have as much space as possible between desks.
- “Soft” surfaces which are not easy to sanitize have been removed from the classrooms
- Children will be educated about not sharing classroom items and personal items
- Classroom items such as manipulatives or other learning aides will be sanitized after use
- Water bubblers will not be used – students should bring a water bottle - with their name on -which can be filled at school
- Early release (1:00pm) of students on Wednesday afternoons
- Frequent daily sanitation of surfaces/bathrooms will take place daily with deep cleaning on Wednesday afternoons
- We will stagger children at their hall cubbies and spread them out as much as space allows
- The number of children in a bathroom at one time will be limited to two as much as possible
- We will not have any Fall field trips – will reevaluate for Spring
- We will not have assemblies in Fall – will reevaluate for Spring
- Open House will be a video welcome and room tour by the classroom teacher

- Student class sizes are as follows as of today – **this is if ALL students attend school in person** – virtual numbers will be subtracted when we know them

4K – 12/13 students per class (with the exception of the section attending from Inspire Dreams – that may be a bit larger because we would like to keep that group of students together)

5K – 14/15 students per class

1<sup>st</sup> - 17/18 students per class

2<sup>nd</sup> - 18/19 students per class

3<sup>rd</sup> - 19 students per class

4<sup>th</sup> – 21/22 students per class – for 4<sup>th</sup> grade – if these numbers do not go down to about 18/19 per class due to virtual learning – the rooms will be moved to the gym, cafeteria, and library then these “bigger” students will have more space to physical distance.

- There will be no parents, visitors, or volunteers past the school office into the building
- Children who are dropped off at school will not be able to exit their vehicles until 7:45am – we will have extra staff helping with crossing the students from the parking lot to the curb as many parents will have to park in the lot before school
- Students who walk to school may not arrive before 7:45am
- Student release and dismissal to/from busses will be staggered
- Dismissal of those students picked up/walking will be somewhat staggered – more info on this to come
- No elementary students may enter the middle school and no middle school students may enter the elementary school
- Due to the nature of the curriculum and age of the students - students in 4K and 5K will be physical distancing to the extent possible. There will be lots of hand washing and sanitation of the classroom and the classroom items. Extra sections were added so that the class size is low to allow for this.
- There is a medical “isolation” space – separate from the Nurse’s office for students waiting to be picked up due to illness
- There will be specific health guidelines put in place for students ill at home or school generally and COVID related – we just received the guidelines from the county and these will be sent to you from our superintendent.

### **Virtual Learning**

- Is available for students in 4K-4<sup>th</sup> grade

- 4K will be sent home packets of learning activities and will have weekly check ins with teachers
- 5K-4<sup>th</sup> - will look very different than last year – students will attend live classes via Google Meets or Zoom. These will be recorded and added to Google classroom if a child is unable to attend live. The expectation is children complete these daily.
- All homework and assignments must be completed daily
- Children will be required to attend daily check ins with the teacher
- Children will be able to communicate with the teacher throughout the day via chat
- Children must complete all assessments independently
- All children will be graded the same – in person or virtual

I know this is a great deal of information and that there are probably still questions. I also know this is not an ideal situation but we are going to make the very best of it and do everything we can so that our children have a positive school experience this year. If you do have a specific question that you need an answer to before you make your in-person vs virtual decision – please feel free to email me at [schusterp@chilton.k12.wi.us](mailto:schusterp@chilton.k12.wi.us) and I will answer it.

Thank you very much for your support and understanding as we work through this – it is very appreciated!

I wish you well!

Pam Schuster  
CES Principal