



20-21 Re-Opening Plan **Frequently Asked Questions**

Q: When will school start?

A: The start date for school has been delayed to August 17, 2020.

Q: Will an online option be available?

A: Yes, we recognize that not all families will be ready to send their children back to school so we plan to have a full-time e-learning option for families. See the “E-Learning Option” section for more details and how to opt-in to e-learning.

Q: How do I inform the school that I want my child to participate in e-learning?

A: Complete the [USI E-Learning Opt In](#) (linked)

Q: Will we still have the Back to School BBQ?

A: No, the Annual Back to School BBQ has been cancelled. Schools are planning for alternative events. These events will either be virtual or in person with a staggered schedule that will allow for social distancing while parents and students can meet the teachers. Stay tuned!

Q: Why didn't we receive a teacher assignment letter?

A: Teacher/Homeroom classroom assignments can not be made until we know the exact number of students attending in person instruction and e-learning. You will be informed of our child's homeroom assignment closer to the start of school.

Safety Precautions

Q: How will the school conduct symptom screening?

A: We will provide a self screening checklist for families and staff to use daily prior to arriving at school. School nurses will be on-site to screen students and staff who may be exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms.

Q: Do students and staff have to wear masks?

A: Yes, all staff are required to wear masks or face coverings at all times. Students will be required to wear masks most of the time during the school day (exceptions include eating, drinking, during physical activity, etc). Check out these [Back to School Face Covering Guidelines](#) published by the IN Department of Education.



Q: Will the school provide masks to students?

A: One reusable cloth mask will be provided for each student. Students should plan to have two solid-color cloth masks as part of their back-to-school supplies. This has been added to the school supply list. ALL Marion County residents can get a FREE mask at the following link <https://www.indy.gov/activity/face-coverings-for-marion-county-residents>. The request form is quick and easy and you can request up to 5 masks for your household.

Q: Can students wear face shields?

A: Face shields do not provide the same protection as a face mask. Only students and staff with a documented health condition that makes the wearing of a mask a risk to his/her health will be permitted to wear face shields.

Q: What if my child won't wear a face covering?

A: Students who refuse to comply with wearing a mask while at school will need to utilize online learning at home.

Q: How will the school promote social distancing in the classroom?

A: Classrooms will be arranged to account for social distancing guidelines. Desks will be separated, facing the same direction and any "extra" classroom furniture will be removed to account for extra space. According to the latest guidance of the American Academy of Pediatrics and re-opening guidance from the Marion County Health Department, students should be seated 3-6 feet apart. We will work towards 6-feet spacing when feasible.

Q: How will the school promote social distancing in high-traffic, common areas?

A: Social distancing reminders will be posted around the building and on the floor in high traffic areas. Lockers and cubby assignments will be as spaced out as possible depending on the number of in-person students.

Q: How will the school encourage frequent handwashing?

A: Additional time will be added to restroom breaks to allow time for thorough hand-washing. There will be a supply of hand sanitizer in every classroom and office. Hand sanitizer will be administered by an adult throughout the day, minimally at the following times:

- o Start of the school day*
- o Before & after eating*
- o Before & after recess*
- o After blowing nose, coughing, or sneezing*
- o Before & after using shared equipment*



Q: What can families do to help keep children and staff safe?

A: There are a number of things families can do to help ensure a safe school environment:

- *Get your child used to wearing a mask*
- *Screen your child for symptoms daily*
- *Keep your child(ren) home if they are sick*
- *Emphasize handwashing at home and school*
- *Pick up your child ASAP if the school notifies you that he/she needs picked up*

Q: What additional cleaning protocols will be put into place?

A: High touch surfaces and common areas will be cleaned and disinfected regularly throughout the day. More intense cleaning will occur each evening following CDC guidelines.

Facilities & School Operations

Q: Will water fountains be used?

A: All traditional water fountains will be turned off. New touchless water fountains will be installed at each school. Students may bring a water bottle from home to keep at their desk throughout the day. A water bottle will be provided to each student with their breakfast if needed.

Q: Will students eat meals in the cafeteria?

A: No, to ensure social distancing and prevent large crowds, students will eat breakfast and lunch in the classroom.

Q: Will there be changes to the arrival routine?

A: Minimal changes have been made to the arrival routine. The arrival window is still 7:40am-8:00am. Students will NOT be allowed out of the car prior to 7:40am. If your child is a walker, he/she should not arrive on campus prior to 7:40am. The vestibule will not be open and they will not be allowed to congregate outside the building. Instead of going to the cafeteria, all students will go directly to his/her classroom for breakfast. Family members will not be allowed to escort students to their classrooms.

Q: How will dismissal work?

A: A staggered dismissal system will allow for social distancing. Grade levels will have assigned dismissal times between 3:00-3:30pm. There will be an assigned time for parents with students in multiple grade levels. We will utilize a new electronic dismissal system that will allow for drive through dismissal. Family members will not be allowed to enter the building during dismissal. More detailed information re: dismissal will be shared closer to the start of school.



Q: Will the YMCA still offer Before and After Care at the school?

A: Yes, Before and After Care will be offered at the school. A flier is included in your Back to School packet and a link can be found on our website.

Q: Will area daycares still be able to drop off and pick up my child?

A: Yes, daycares will have a designated time to pick up your child during dismissal. They will also use our new dismissal system.

Q: Will students still attend specials/electives?

A: Yes, all specials classes will still be offered. Specials teachers (art, technology, music, etc) will go to the homeroom classroom to facilitate class.

Q: How will Physical Education class be handled?

A: We will limit the use of the gym for PE class only. Equipment will be disinfected regularly. Games and activities will incorporate social distancing and minimize shared equipment. Any equipment that is used will be disinfected regularly.

Q: Will elementary students still get recess?

A: Yes, all elementary students will have recess daily. Only one homeroom class will use the playground at a time, we will encourage social distancing, and disinfect equipment frequently.

Q: How will school supplies be handled?

A: Each child should bring in his/her own school supplies on the first day of school. Individual supplies will be stored in a student's assigned cubby or locker. No sharing of cubbies or lockers is permitted.

Q: How will middle school transitions be impacted?

A: Middle school students will remain in the same room with their "cohort" during the day. In order to reduce the spread of germs, they will not transition to other classrooms throughout the day. Instead, the teachers will rotate classrooms.

Q: Are visitors allowed?

A: Due to COVID-19, we are restricting all non-essential visitors, including parents, and volunteers. Meetings will take place virtually or via phone. Only essential 3rd party vendors will be permitted into the buildings by appointment only and must follow all school guidelines.

Q: Will extra-curriculars be offered?

A: After school clubs and tutoring will be held virtually. A decision about athletics has not yet been made. We will wait until closer to the start of the school year to make a decision.



COVID-19 Screening & Response Protocol

Q: How will the school conduct symptom screening?

A: We will provide a self screening checklist for families and staff to use daily prior to arriving at school. School nurses will be on-site to screen students and staff who may be exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms.

Q: What symptoms should we screen for?

A: Students & staff should not come to school if they exhibit one or more COVID-19 symptoms based on [CDC Guidance](#) that is not otherwise explained (i.e, allergies, migraines, etc).

Symptoms include, but are not limited to:

- *A fever of 100.4 degrees F or greater*
- *Cough*
- *Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing*
- *Chills*
- *Repeated shaking with chills*
- *Muscle pain*
- *Headache*
- *Sore throat*
- *New loss of taste or smell*

Q: What if my child is showing symptoms at home?

A: Monitor your child's symptoms and keep your child at home until proper testing can take place. The State [website](#) has a list of over 200 testing facilities, their location and hours of operation. This list is updated frequently.

Q: What if a child is showing symptoms at school?

A: School nurses and trained staff will be on-site to screen students and staff who may be exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms. In cases when it has been determined that students are required to leave school based on identified COVID-19 symptoms, a parent/guardian will be called. The parent/guardian is expected to pick up the child within one hour. The school will have a designated isolation room for anyone who may experience symptoms.

Q: What if my child tests positive for COVID-19?

A: If your child tests positive for COVID, please notify the school immediately.

Q: What if someone in the school tests positive for COVID-19?

A: The school staff will work directly with the Marion County Health Department for any cases of students and staff to determine recommended next steps for quarantine or isolation.



E-Learning Offering

Q: How do I select e-learning for my child?

A: Fill out the [USI E-Learning Opt In](#) Form linked here.

Q: If I select e-learning, do I have to do it for the full year?

A: No, you will have the option to opt in to in-person instruction at the end of the first quarter.

Q: What if I want my child to participate in e-learning, but we do not have a computer?

A: The school will provide your child with a loaner laptop to be returned when your child completes e-learning. You will indicate this need on your E-Learning Opt-In Form.

Q: What if I want my child to do e-learning, but we do not have Wifi?

A: The school has a limited number of Hotspots available to support families without internet access. You will make note of this need in the E-Learning Opt-In Form.

Q: When will we receive the materials necessary for e-learning?

A: The school will communicate days/time for device and material pick up during the week of 8/10. These materials include workbooks, manipulatives, technology devices and other learning tools necessary to provide a high quality remote learning experience.

Q: Will the E-Learning requirements for the upcoming school year be the same as in the spring?

A: No, if families opt into e-learning they will be required to follow the school calendar for attendance days and fulfill daily minimum time expectations. Student assignments will be graded on the school's traditional grading system found in the student handbook. Students must maintain regular communication with their e-learning teacher.

Q: How will attendance be taken during e-learning?

A: Attendance for e-learning will be taken daily during the Community Meeting time. Attendance requirements may include minimum time logged in and lesson completion. Indiana Compulsory Attendance Law is in effect and schools are required to report truancy, chronic absenteeism, and missing students that are participating in e-learning.

Q: What is the grading policy for e-learning?

A: The e-learning curriculum and assignments will mirror the in-person instruction taking place. Grading expectations will be the same for e-learning and in person instruction. Refer to the family handbook for a copy of your school's grading scale.