

THREE RIVERS SCHOOL REOPENING NEWSLETTER

School Schedule:

Three Rivers School will open as planned, pending local conditions and state orders, on August 12, 2020. We are offering 2 choices to our families of students in grades TK - 8.

1. Students will attend school daily. Accommodations to classrooms have been made to allow for daily attendance. Other safety precautions and a rigorous cleaning and sanitizing schedule have also been put in place.

2. Full-time distance learning is an option to our families. This may include learning packets, online assignments, and/or virtual instruction.

Office personnel will be calling each of our families in July to verify their preference for returning to school. This will help us plan for classroom arrangement. Please know that your choice is not set in stone. We want to work with you.

Transportation:

TRUS will continue to provide bus transportation to our students. We are encouraging as many parents as possible to drive their students to school to reduce the number of riders on the bus. All students being dropped off will be at the top of the Eggers Ramp. Classes will be separated on the field with markers for social distancing. Face coverings will be kept on until students are cleared and head to the classroom. Here are a few things parents should know.



- All students riding the bus are required to wear a facial covering and observe social distancing unless in the same family. The bus driver will have masks available if needed.
- Students will be asked to sanitize their hands before entering the bus, will sit only in marked seats for distancing, and will sanitize their hands when leaving the bus.
- Student temperatures may be taken before they enter the bus. We are still thinking about the logistics of

doing this. If not, when the bus arrives at school students will be asked to line up socially distanced and personnel will take temperatures and perform a wellness check. Any student with a temperature of 100.4 or greater will have to go home. Parents will be called to pick the student up.

Health & Safety Precautions:

The following are health and safety guidelines provided by state/local health agencies to reopen schools. The guidelines are based on the most current information and will be updated as conditions change. If an individual has come in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or is experiencing flu-like symptoms, including coughing and/or shortness of breath that person should not come to school and should contact their primary doctor.

Temperature Check:

- It is recommended that parents take their child's temperature daily before school. A student with a temperature of 100.4+ or who doesn't feel well, will need to be kept home.
- Before entering school grounds, temperatures of students and staff will be taken.
- Students who feel sick during the day or exhibit flu-like symptoms will be given a mask and placed in a separate room. A parent or designee will need to pick them up as soon as possible.

Safety Precautions throughout the day:

- All students and staff will be asked to practice 6' of social distancing as practical.
- Face masks or shields will be provided to students/staff if needed and they will be asked to wear them when 6' of social distancing is not possible.
- In order to reduce the number of students in the gym and on the playground, paths for distancing in hallways will be marked. Students will follow a staggered schedule for recess, P.E. and lunch.

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- Drinking fountains will not be available and students will need to bring their own reusable water bottles.
- Visitors to the school will be limited and are required to wear face coverings and check in at the office first.
- Physical barriers within the classroom, such as trifold plexiglass shields, may be installed when 6' of social distancing is difficult or not possible.
- Proper hand washing, sanitizing, and hygiene will be taught and monitored throughout the day. Portable hand sanitizing stations and portable hand washing stations are being investigated.
- Classroom materials will not be shared. Disinfecting will occur between use if sharing is unavoidable.
- Extra disinfecting procedures will be used throughout the day to keep bathrooms, classrooms and all areas of the campus clean.

Teaching and Learning:

To promote student learning while observing safety precautions and social distancing, the following will be put in place.

- ★ Individual shields / barriers will be used in classrooms where 6' of social distancing cannot be observed. Classrooms will be rearranged to provide the maximum space.
- ★ It is recommended that students and teachers wear face coverings any time 6' of distancing is difficult to maintain.
- ★ Chromebooks will be kept charged and sanitized daily. All students in grades 3-8 will have their own Chromebook.
- ★ The Science Lab will be available to classes at scheduled times and sanitized in between use. Sharing of materials should be avoided but if it is not possible, materials will be sanitized after use.

- ★ Students will eat their snack in the classroom prior to going out to recess. Teachers will pick their class up from the playground after recess.
- ★ Specific restrooms will be assigned to class groups and students will be asked to use only the assigned restroom.
- ★ The After School Homework Club will be available for students for homework help, Monday - Thursday until 3:45 in the library. It will be cleaned and sanitized daily.
- ★ Physical Education will be held outside to help maintain social distancing.
- ★ Band will be offered for students in grades 6-8 initially and will be sectionals only, so as to maintain social distancing. We are considering options for the whole band; held outside or in the gym, but have not made any decisions yet.
- ★ Field trips will be put on hold at this time. Virtual field trips may be used by teachers as appropriate.

Team Sports and Extracurricular Activities:

We know that sports and extracurricular activities are important to students and we want to restore them as soon as possible. We will update this if any further information becomes available, either from these organizations or the CA Interscholastic Federation.

- ❖ At this point in time, based on recommendations from the County Health Department and Tulare County Office of Education, no contact sports will be offered.
- ❖ The league to which we belong, Kaweah Athletic League, is in agreement with this decision.
- ❖ Activities like SCICON and other TCOE sponsored events are currently suspended.
- ❖ The Recreation Committee may meet to discuss any possible activities. I have not yet

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been in contact with the committee since the end of the school year.

I want you to know that I encourage and welcome your emails with specific concerns. I am your contact. We are in this together and together, on behalf of the children, we will triumph!

Other Safety Precautions:

- A cleaning schedule has been set up and will be monitored on a daily basis.
- Cleaning & sanitizing of all restroom surfaces twice daily
- Sanitizing of outdoor equipment and lunch tables in between use by classes
- Door handles and handrails sanitized twice daily
- Bus sanitized after each route
- Hepa Air Filters purchased for each classroom
- Teachers equipped with sanitizers, disinfectant wipes, masks, thermometers
- Sanitizer dispensers installed in each classroom

It is our goal to keep everyone safe, staff & students alike. I will keep you informed as developments occur.

Additional Considerations:

Please understand that we are still considering items not in this newsletter. There are many things to think about and every time the staff and I talk, we come up with more.

- Staff and students / families with higher risk conditions
- The plan for when a staff member or student / family member tests positive for COVID-19; length of quarantine; how is it determined
- The use of hallway space and a designated path of travel
- Reminding families that this is a community effort and not just a school effort and encouraging families to continue hand washing, sanitizing, and social distancing
- Developing a strategic and rigorous plan if school closure / distance learning becomes necessary

