



8/28/20

Dear Grand Island School District Families:

I hope this letter finds everyone safe, healthy and well. The purpose of this communication is to provide an update on our plans to reopen schools.

As you may know, we employed a multi-layered planning process that included over 100 stakeholders from across the district, working in teams to make sure that our plans are comprehensive and minimize health risks to students, staff and families. Our committees included students, parents, community leaders, teachers, staff, administrators and Board of Education members. These stakeholders met multiple times to discuss the safest way to reopen our schools. In addition to these committees, we held 3 parent forums, a forum for all of our faculty and another forum for all of our staff.

With schools opening on September 9, we will have students attending school, in-person, using the Hybrid model and students using the 100% remote model. The 100% remote model will be referred to as the Viking Virtual model.

Our Hybrid reopening plan will require:

- cloth face coverings to be worn by students, staff and faculty;
- each student, faculty member and staff to be provided with cloth and disposable face coverings by the district;
- instructional staff to schedule mask breaks as appropriate;
- parents, guardians and employees to complete a temperature screening each morning prior to their child boarding a school bus or being dropped off at school or the employee arriving at work;
- employees to conduct a health screening and attest to their healthiness each day;
- parents and guardians to complete a digital health screening form each morning prior to their child boarding a bus or being dropped off at school; and
- students to be divided by the alphabet (A-L and M-Z) and accommodations made for blended families.

In our Hybrid plan, students will attend school with an altered schedule to reduce student population within the building and each classroom to approximately 50%. Students will attend school in-person for two days a week following an A/B cohort model.

- Students with the last name beginning with the letters A-L will attend school 2 days (Mon-Thurs) while the students with the last name beginning with the letters M-Z are home on Monday and Thursday.
- Students with the last name beginning with the letters M-Z, will attend school 2 days (Tues-Fri) while students with the last names beginning with A-L are home on Tuesday and Friday.
- Wednesday will be a day where **all** students are home (Hybrid Virtual and 100% Viking Virtual) but teachers will be available synchronously to support our students. Sidway students will have two 45 minute synchronous lessons with their teachers. Huth and Kaegebein students will have two 50 minute lessons with their teachers. Students in grades 6-12 will follow their schedule and attend 20 minute lessons throughout the day with their teachers. (Start and end times will be determined by each school.)
- Students who attend our Life Skills Self-Contained program will attend school Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. On Wednesday our students will follow a synchronous schedule as outlined above.
- Students who attend our UPK program at Sidway will attend Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. On Wednesday our students will follow a synchronous schedule as outlined above.

When students are home in the Hybrid Virtual or 100% Viking Virtual plan they will have access and opportunity to the greatest extent possible to:

- teacher directed instruction within the Google Classroom environment;
- the same curriculum, standards and performance indicators;
- specialized academic support as appropriate;

- IEP accommodations, related services and academic intervention services (AIS);
- daily synchronous academic and advisory support with a faculty specialist;
- utilize a District mobile device such as a Chromebook or iPad. All students grade 2-12 have mobile devices, we are waiting for devices to be delivered for students in grades K and 1.

To reduce density on school buses, whether we are fully on campus or following a hybrid model, we will have new start and end times for our schools.

MS/HS Notes	VCMS	HS	Elementary Notes	Huth	Kaegebein	Sidway
MS/HS buses begin unloading	7:05	7:48	Elementary buses begin unloading	8:28	8:28	9:15
Class Begins	7:15	7:58	Class Begins	8:43	8:43	9:25
Last Class Ends	1:25	2:18	Last Class Ends	2:53	2:53	3:35
Bus Leaves Campus	1:35	2:26	Bus Leaves Campus	3:06	3:06	3:45

If your children are attending school in the Hybrid model this is the schedule for the first month of school. **Please note that on September 9 we will have children attend with the last name beginning with A-L and on September 10 students will attend with the last name beginning with M-Z. All students are home on Friday, September 11 and will meet virtually and synchronously with their teachers as described above.** On September 14, the A/B cohort pattern will begin as shown below.

<b>HYBRID</b>	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1			<b>9/9</b> - Last Name Begins With A-L	<b>9/10</b> - Last Name Begins With M-Z	<b>9/11</b> - All Students Home – <b>Synchronous Virtual Instruction</b>
Week 2	<b>9/14</b> - Last Name Begins With A-L	<b>9/15</b> - Last Name Begins With M-Z	<b>9/16</b> - All Students <b>Synchronous Virtual Instruction</b>	<b>9/17</b> - Last Name Begins With A-L	<b>9/18</b> - Last Name Begins With M-Z
Week 3	<b>9/21</b> - Last Name Begins With A-L	<b>9/22</b> - Last Name Begins With M-Z	<b>9/23</b> - All Students Home <b>Synchronous Virtual Instruction</b>	<b>9/24</b> - Last Name Begins With A-L	<b>9/25</b> - Last Name Begins With M-Z
Week 4	<b>9/28</b> - Last Name Begins With A-L	<b>9/29</b> - Last Name Begins With M-Z	<b>9/30</b> - All Students Home <b>Synchronous Virtual Instruction</b>	<b>10/1</b> - Last Name Begins With A-L	<b>10/2</b> - Last Name Begins With M-Z

You may have heard recently that Governor Cuomo has given the green light for Low Risk sports to begin starting September 21, 2020. Although he has given his approval, the next phase of decisions will come from the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSHSAA) and the various sections of the state where competition occurs. We will keep you updated regarding any decisions that are announced by the NYSPHSAA and Section 6.

As we begin the school year, we will **not** be hosting any in-person after school extra-curricular activities. Our main focus when students are dismissed will be cleaning and disinfecting all areas of our school. The only before and after school programming that will continue is the childcare program operated by Just for Kids.

The health, safety, and welfare of our entire school community remains our primary focus. We respect that everyone has differing opinions and perspectives about COVID-19 and the requirements necessary for schools to reopen in a hybrid model. Our district must follow the guidance, mandates, and precautions established by the Governor, NYS Department of Health (NYSDOH), and the NYS Education Department (NYSED).

It should be recognized that our district will take every precaution and action possible to prevent the potential spread of the virus and to create a safe and healthy environment for all parties in our school community. It is strongly recommended in the guidance from NYSDOH, NYSED, and Dr. Burstein, Commissioner of Health of Erie County, that students wear a mask at all times and as much as possible. Wearing a mask is the most widely held successful means of preventing potential spread of the virus.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership with our district.

Sincerely,

Brian Graham, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools