

# Clinton School District K-12

## Smart Start – Ready For Learning Plan

### Frequently Asked Questions for the Start of the 2020-21 School Year

#### What is the first day for students?

The first day of school will be August 24, 2020, according to Governor Hutchinson's latest update.

#### Will schools be closed following Labor Day?

Yes. Due to precautionary measures taken by the district, all on-site traditional instruction will be delivered virtually from Tuesday, Sept 8 until Friday, Sept 18. The traditional on-site students will obtain instruction virtually for the two weeks to ensure everyone's safety and to increase virtual learning capabilities for all in case of a lengthy closing of schools.

#### What instructional delivery method options will be available to our children for the 2020-21 school year?

The Clinton School District will offer two instructional delivery methods for the 2020-21 school year.

1. **Traditional Onsite learning** with blended instruction: students will attend school on-site in the Clinton School District. Instruction will consist of a blend of traditional instruction with the district online learning management system (Canvas provided by Virtual Arkansas). Staff and students will work to become familiar with the system in the event the student, the class, or the school needs to transition to remote learning.
2. **Off-site virtual learning**: Students will have the opportunity to enroll in learning remotely. The student will not attend classes on campus. They will be enrolled in classes taught by Clinton School District Teachers through our online management system, Virtual Arkansas - Canvas. Students will be taught the Arkansas standards with the same curriculum and expectations as our on-site students. Students will need to ensure that they have adequate cell phone access at their point of location to receive remote learning.

**Will bus transportation be provided?**

Yes, the district will provide bus transportation for all students. We are planning no changes to bus schedules or bus stops as of July 16, 2020.

**Who will be required to wear face coverings?**

On July 16, 2020 Governor Hutchinson mandated that all individuals wear a face covering when physical distancing cannot be achieved. It is also recommended that students wear a face covering in areas where there is a high concentration of students and social distancing cannot be maintained (such as on buses). With that said, masks will be required for all students K-12. Exceptions for wearing a face mask include students with health, sensory or other conditions and will be addressed on an individual basis.

**Do we need to provide masks for our student or will the district provide one?**

Students are more than welcome to provide individual masks, but masks will be provided for those without.

**How normal will the day be for a student?**

Our goal is for our students to have as normal of a day as possible, while also trying to keep all stakeholders safe. Students will follow a typical daily schedule.

**Will our students have the same arrival and dismissal times?**

At this time, our arrival and dismissal times will remain the same. However, depending upon guidance from ADH, dismissal times may have to be varied in order to increase social distancing and to decrease the number of students congregating at pick up areas.

**Will students attend school every day or will we have some type of alternative schedule?**

We plan for our students to attend school daily following a very similar schedule to the traditional school day.

**Will students be able to participate in activities/classes like P.E., art, music, guidance and library?**

Yes, students will continue to participate in activity classes, check out library books, and receive guidance and gifted instruction with social distancing where feasible.

**Will students in the lower grades still have recess?**

Yes, students will have outdoor play time with restrictions that will limit the contact with other students with social distancing where feasible.

### **How will you help fill any gaps my student has from the previous year?**

Professional Learning Community teams will work to revise the curriculum so that missed essential standards and content will be addressed when students return. Additionally, students will be assessed to determine individual strengths and deficits. The assessments will determine if a student needs additional support. Staff will then initiate our response to intervention program with students.

### **Will students be able to participate in extracurricular activities and sports this fall?**

Yes, some extracurricular activities are already taking place under the provided safety guidelines. Currently the school district anticipates sports activities in the fall with possible modifications as required by ADH and the Arkansas Activities Association. This matter could change in the near future.

### **Will social distance guidelines be observed?**

Social distancing will be observed as much as feasibly possible, but there could be times students will be closer than the recommended 6 ft. apart. When social distancing requirements cannot be maintained (such as class exchange time, etc), students will need to follow the Governor's mandate to wear coverings. Clinton Schools will redesign classrooms and cafeteria spaces to increase the space between students.

### **Will classrooms be arranged differently to protect students?**

Yes, classrooms will be arranged to provide more space between students. Clinton Schools will make every effort to provide adequate distance, but attempt to not limit students' ability to interact and communicate with others in their classroom.

### **Will students eat lunch in their classroom?**

Based on current guidance, the ADH is recommending cafeterias limit the capacity of students in the cafeteria. Clinton Schools anticipate having to adjust lunch schedules or use alternative areas, such as large gathering spaces, or potentially have lunch in their classroom on a very limited basis. Proper sanitation of all areas will be completed after each meal. Procedures will not allow students to pick up utensils, self-serve, or share food. Clinton Schools is very proud to once again offer **free breakfast and lunch to all students**.

### **Will I be allowed to eat lunch at school with my child?**

No, unfortunately. Visitors to school buildings will be limited to essential activity. We must minimize risk for all students.

### **Can I deliver food to a student?**

No. Due to virus concerns, no food deliveries will be accepted

### **What special precautions will be implemented in regard to cleaning and sanitizing?**

Sanitation and cleanliness will be a high priority for Clinton Schools in our return in the fall. Staff will clean high touch surfaces (door knobs, light switches, etc...) and restrooms on a continuous basis throughout the day. Clinton Schools will also provide time for hand washing and hand sanitizer throughout our campuses. Students will be asked to sanitize their hands each time they leave and enter a new space. Hand sanitizer will be available for students as needed. Students are also encouraged to bring their own.

### **Will students and adults be screened daily?**

Parents and families will be asked to screen their child/ren daily prior to coming to school by asking these questions:

1. Have you had a fever in the last two days?
2. Have you had a cough, difficulty breathing, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell?
3. Have you been in contact with a person known to be infected with COVID-19 within the previous 14 days?

### **If a student comes to school sick, what will happen?**

If a student comes to school sick, the student will first be isolated. The school nurse will screen the student and check his/her temperature. If the student's temperature is over the ADH guidance, the student will be sent home. The student will need to be fever free and symptom free for 72 hours without medication before returning to school or have a note from a doctor allowing the child to return to school. When the child returns to school, he or she will check-in with the school nurse before attending classes.

### **If an individual tests positive for COVID-19, what will happen?**

In the event an individual tests positive, we will follow the latest guidance from ADH and will be in direct contact with ADH.

### **What happens if we have school closures again?**

If schools close again, Clinton Schools will follow on-line instruction through our Virtual Arkansas – Canvas system for grades K-12. Students will learn how to use these Learning Management System (Canvas) by participating in blended lessons throughout the week while at school. Blended learning that includes both on-site traditional instruction and digital instruction will become the norm.

### **In the event of a temporary school closure, how will the district serve students who have special needs (Special Education, 504, Dyslexia, etc...)?**

Clinton Schools will ensure students with disabilities have equal access to the curriculum as compared with their peers, providing opportunities for remote instruction consistent with IEP/504 goals.

### **What advice do you have for students with special needs (autism, asthma, panic attacks, anxiety, etc...) or students with weakened immune systems and pre-existing conditions?**

Clinton Schools will be prepared to accommodate students through both onsite and offsite instruction with special needs. Our Special Education instructors will be taking extra precautions when working with students. If parents/families have concerns about their students who may be at high-risk because of COVID-19, exploring the virtual learning option should be considered. The off-site virtual option allows students to continue their education from the safety of their home.

### **Will we have an open house in August?**

Each building will have some type of open house. More information will be forthcoming.

### **If I don't want my student to return to a traditional on-site classroom, and want to enroll my student in the Clinton Schools off-site virtual option, what does that look like?**

The option will provide a total online educational program for students who do not feel comfortable returning to onsite instruction. The option will include the same standards-based instruction that students in the traditional school setting will receive. **This is different from the type of instruction provided during AMI Days.** Standards-based lessons will be delivered virtually through the Virtual Arkansas – Canvas program. Assignments for the online learning will be the same or similar to the assignments given in the traditional classroom with the same expected due dates and grading procedures. A device will be provided to students choosing the online option. A reliable internet connection is required. If you are not able to obtain internet access, access points throughout the district will be provided as in the past spring school shut down.

**If students choose to do the full-time virtual classes, will they be required to take interim assessments and state-mandated assessments?**

Yes, students will be required to complete these assessments **at their appropriate building**. These tests will be coordinated through the building counselor minimizing social contact with other students.

**If students choose to do full-time virtual classes, will they be able to participate in extracurricular activities?**

Yes, students may still be involved in any on-campus or extracurricular activities, but they may be screened prior to attending. Virtual students will have to provide their own transportation to school and practices.

**How do I sign my child up for the off-site virtual option?**

Parents and families will be required to sign up for the Clinton Schools off-site virtual option and commit to a minimum of nine (9) weeks. Parents and students will be required to commit to the off-site option no later than August 10, 2020. All students will automatically be enrolled in the traditional on-site learning unless students are signed up for the off-site option. More information on signing up for the off-site option is to follow.

**Can I visit the school, classroom, or eat lunch with my student?**

Under current ADH guidance, visitors will not be allowed in school buildings except in the front office area. Parents will not be allowed to eat with their children. Schools will work to discontinue any large group gatherings (assemblies, pep rallies, etc.).

**Will parents, visitors, or PTO members be allowed in the buildings?**

The Clinton School district has always welcomed parent support in our buildings; however, with the current guidance, visitors are not allowed in buildings. This guidance may change at a later time, but it is the guidance we have today. Visitors to school buildings will be limited to essential activity.

**Will outside groups be able to use school district facilities?**

Not at the current time. Due to the Governor's directives, Clinton School District facilities may not be used by outside groups in any manner.

**Can I walk my child into the school?**

No, parents and guardians may not walk them into the school, but they may walk their student to the school entrance. Visits to the school will be limited to essential activity.

**Is the Smart Start Plan for the Pre-School?**

No, the pre-school has different guidelines developed by the Arkansas Department of Human Services and the Arkansas Better Chance (ABC) Early Childhood program. The Pre-K plans will be posted on the Pre-K school's website.