



# De Soto Area School District

**Reconnect—Reinspire—Reignite  
Partnership—Imagination—Love of Learning**

## 2021-22 School Year

- **June 15, 2021—Finance & Personnel Committee**
- **June 17, 2021—Curriculum Committee**
- **June 21, 2021—School Board**
- **June 29, 2021—Open Planning Meeting**
- **July 13, 2021—Open Planning Meeting**
- **July 19, 2021—School Board**
- **August 9, 2021—Virtual Town Hall Meeting**
- **August 16, 2020—School Board**

# Our Commitments

## District Vision

Dedicated to Learning & Growth—Striving for Excellence

### District Mission

Develop well rounded, confident and responsible individuals who aspire to achieve their **full potential**

We are committed to our partnerships with families and the community supporting the **academic, personal, and holistic development of all students.**

### Student Social-Emotional Wellbeing

Teachers and staff strive to build a sense of **belonging and connectedness** with students and families. We are committed to creating learning environments that are safe, caring, and respectful incorporating Social-Emotional learning.

### Safety, Health & Wellbeing

Focus is on **overall health and wellbeing** of our District's students, families, staff, and the community.

Fluid response considering recommendations from the CDC, State and Vernon County health departments, the District's medical advisory physician and school nurse keeping in mind staff, students and parent capacity, coupled with the District's financial resources.

**The District reserves the right and authority to reinstate any protocols essential to maintaining the safety, health and wellness of students and staff inclusive of COVID-19 protocols (face coverings/masking, etc.) if increases in case numbers indicate an elevated risk of transmission within the school setting which could impact the health of our students and staff.**

# Our Commitments

## Student Academics

Instruction will focus on **student engagement, differentiation, and assistance** for students with academic needs. Our commitment is that every child progresses and learns at the highest possible level.

## Instructional Models

The District will provide two instructional models as was offered prior to COVID-19.

### ➤ On-Campus In-Person Learning

The District will offer the traditional on-campus classroom instruction for all 4K-12 grade students.

### ➤ De Soto Virtual Charter School

The District also provides K-12 grade students with the option to enroll in the De Soto Virtual Charter School as an alternative option.

### ➤ Quarantine Remote/Hard Copy Learning

- Available to COVID-19 and/or
- Contact Traced or Close Contact students for the duration of their individual quarantine.

## Equity

Each student, regardless of background or experiences, will demonstrate academic and social-emotional competence receiving targeted resources, instructional, and **individualized learning** as needed (E.g. IEP's, 504)

Instructional models support student experiences in **culturally relevant, cognitively challenging, real-world applicable learning** with academic progress leading to the next grade level and ultimately graduation.

## Responsible, Respectful, Resilient Learners

Educational materials will provide opportunities for learning about diversity in a manner facilitates understanding, empathy, kindness, acceptance and advocacy. Each student will be expected to **contribute to a positive and safe learning environment by accepting ownership of their own actions, and experiences, and respect the unique needs and contributions of others.**

# Our Commitments

## Teachers & Staff Professional Development

The District provides annual training opportunities in **Trauma Sensitive Schools, A.C.E.S., Crisis Prevention Education, and Adolescent Mental Health.**

Teachers are also provided with professional development opportunities to **close learning gaps** impacted by COVID-19 school closure and remote learning periods.

## Stakeholder Communication

The District will maintain ongoing communication with families via the **School Messenger** system (text, email, voice mail), **postal mailings, School Board Committee and Board meetings, Town Hall Virtual Meetings**, and through the **District website COVID-19 and School Updates page.**

## Ongoing District Planning

The District will continue to modify, update, and revise the plan for maintaining safe school learning environments and instructional models. **Stakeholder feedback** will be a welcome contribution to any revisions.

Plan development may be reviewed by, but not limited to, the District's medical advisory personnel, the Vernon County Health Department, Vernon County Sheriff's Office, Vernon County Emergency Management—Corp Council, and the District's insurance company and legal council.

## Family Resources

District efforts focus on providing information and resources supporting each family and their children's education

# Committee & Stakeholders

## **Stakeholder Feedback**

- Staff Survey—June 4
- Parent Survey—June 21
- Student Surveys—June 23
- School Board Committees—June 15, 17
- Public Open Meeting—June 29 and July 13
- Virtual Town Hall Meetings—August 9
- School Board Meetings—June 21, July 19, August 16

# School Board & Board Committees

## **School Board**

- Rick Pedretti, Jess Boardman, Geri Fox, Kirk Holliday, Jeff Long, Kevin Walleser, Ryan Venner & Darus Spingler

## **Building, Grounds & Transportation**

- Kirk Holliday, Darus Spingler, Ryan Venner, Kevin Walleser, Alternate-Rick Pedretti

## **Curriculum & Technology**

- Jess Boardman, Brent Hutchison, Jeff Long, Ryan Venner

## **Finance & Personnel**

- Geri Fox, Brent Hutchison, Jeff Long, Rick Pedretti

## **Policy**

- Jess Boardman, Geri Fox, Brent Hutchison, Rick Pedretti

# Review Advisory

## **Medical Advisory**

- Opal Hostert, School District Nurse
- Dr. Prior, School District Physician Advisor

## **Review Agencies**

- Vernon County Health Department
- Vernon County Emergency Management Core Council
- Vernon County Sheriff's Office
- District Insurance Company Risk Assessor
- NEOLA Policy Advisor

# Public & Town Hall Meetings

## Administrative Team

- **Derek Fuglsang**, Stoddard Elementary Principal
- **Kelly Olson**, Prairie View Elementary Principal
- **Tim Fergot**, Middle/High School Principal
- **Linzi Gronning**, Middle/High School Principal & Superintendent
- **Caron Malin**, Director of Special Education, Pupil Services & Title I
- **DuWayne Gronning**, Director of Technology
- **Opal Hostert**, School District Nurse
- **Scott Kelly**, Director of De Soto Virtual Charter School
- **Guy Boardman**, Director of Building & Grounds
- **Jackie Kurszewski**, Assistant Director of Building & Grounds
- **Betsy Knutson**, District Food Service Director

# Reopening Readiness

- Layered Mitigation & Prevention
- Health & Wellness Protocols
- Training
- Learning Environments
- Academics & Daily Schedule
- Handbooks, Policies & Guidelines
- Communication
- Transportation
- Surround Care
- Food Service

# American Rescue Plan (ARP)

- Mask—optional
- Physical distancing
- Handwashing & respiratory etiquette
- Cleaning & maintaining healthy facilities & ventilation
- Contact tracing, isolation (health rooms), quarantine—collaboration with State & local health departments
- Diagnostic testing & screening—School (symptom & event), Family provider/Co Health Dept
- Effort to provide vaccinations
- Accommodations for children with disabilities (health & safety policies)
- Coordination with state & local health depts.
- Continuity of service: Academics, student/staff social/emotional health, other needs

# Masks/Face Coverings--Indoors

- District is not requiring indoor masks/face coverings for students or staff
- Masks/face coverings are not required for outdoor school day activities
- Optional to wear masks/face coverings
  - Parents/guardians asked to inform school of your intent for your child to wear a mask indoors
- **Mask/Face Coverings recommended mitigation strategy**  
**Note: The District reserves the right to institute mitigation strategies in response to a high level of school spread of COVID-19 or variant in order to maintain in-school learning.**

# Busing—Masking/Face Coverings

**CDC mandates mask/face coverings for passengers and drivers of all public transportation including school vehicles**

- ✓ **Mask/face coverings are required for students & drivers in school vehicles**
  - IEP and medical exceptions apply
- ✓ Parents/guardians are asked to inform school if you will be using alternative transportation

Note: CDC.gov *Requirement for Face Masks on Public Transportation* and US Dept of Ed COVID-19 Handbook

# Physical Distancing

- Cognizant of social distancing in schools whenever possible
- Classrooms
  - 3' spacing between desk seating when feasible
  - Group desk/table seating will retain Plexiglas dividers as feasible
  - 4K-1<sup>st</sup> gr floor seating will be 3' spacing when feasible for limited time activities
- Lunch room
  - Seating 3' foot separation as feasible
  - Phase out TBD

# Classroom



# Classroom



# Classroom



# Handwashing/Respiratory



## ➤ Wash hands frequently

- Hand sanitizer available at entrances, large group areas, and classrooms

## ➤ Cover Coughs and Sneezes— discard Kleenex and wash hands

- <https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/pdf/wash-your-hands-fact-sheet-508.pdf>
- <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/disease/handwashing.htm>

# Cleaning/Disinfecting & Ventilation

## **Custodial/Maintenance**

- CDC/EPA approved disinfectants for high touch surfaces and common areas

## **Teachers**

- Microfiber cloth with CDC/EPA disinfectants for classroom high touch surfaces

## **Ventilation**

- Annual inspection of HVAC systems to optimize fresh air circulation
- Ionizers are part of roof top units
- Portable ionizers used in health rooms & other areas

# School Physical Spaces

## Safety Signage

- Hand Hygiene-Hand Washing
- Symptoms
- Preventing spread

## Drinking Water

- Bottle filling only
- One time use cups
- **Elementary Water Bottles**

## Floor Adhesives

- 6' markers phased out over summer



## Physical Barriers

- Plexiglas for group table work
- phase out TBD

## Hand Sanitation Stations

- Available in high traffic areas
- Available in classrooms

## Hallway Lockers

- MS/HS Lockers will return to grade level areas
- MS/HS backpacks will remain in lockers and will not be needed to be brought into classrooms

# Stay Home When Sick

- If your child is ill they need to stay at home.
- If they have taken medications to reduce fever in last 24 hours
- Children may return to school after 24 hours symptom free or after COVID-19 quarantine periods for positive & contact traced
- Parents are asked to contact the school when their child is ill

# COVID-19 Symptoms

## Two or More Symptoms

- ✓ Cough
- ✓ Fever or chills
- ✓ Shortness of breath
- ✓ Difficulty breathing
- ✓ Muscle or body aches
- ✓ New loss of taste or smell
- ✓ Sore throat
- ✓ Congestion or runny nose
- ✓ Nausea
- ✓ Vomiting
- ✓ Diarrhea
- ✓ Headache

# Stay Home When Sick

- Parents should consult their medical provider or the VC Health Department for guidance if their child has come in close contact with someone who has COVID-19
- If your child has been Contact Traced/Close Contact—follow quarantine guidelines and keep child home
- If your child has tested positive for COVID-19 they must finish the 10-day quarantine period

# Contact Traced/Close Contacts & COVID-19 Positive

- Communicate with school if child is contact traced/close contact to a COVID-19 positive individual
- Communicate with school if child tested COVID-19 positive
- Schools will monitor seating charts to determine close contacts
- School health rooms provide isolation of ill or COVID-19 symptomatic students/staff
- Staff assisting ill students will use PPE products

# Quarantine

## Contact Traced/Close Contacts

**Note: Masks are recommended during the 14-day quarantine period**

### ➤ **Vaccinated and asymptomatic**

- No quarantine
- Monitor for symptoms for 14-days

### ➤ **Vaccinated and symptomatic**

- With negative PCR or Rapid Antigen Test
- Return to school
- Monitor for symptoms for 14-days

# Quarantine

## Contact Traced/Close Contacts

### ➤ **Unvaccinated**

- With negative PCR or Rapid Antigen Test
- Symptom free
- Return to school after 7-day quarantine
- Monitor for symptoms for 14-days

### ➤ **Unvaccinated**

- With **NO** PCR or Rapid Antigen Test
- Return to school following 14-day quarantine and symptom free

# Quarantine COVID-19 Positive

➤ **Follow quarantine orders from Health Dept**

## **Return to school**

- After 10-days
- Symptom free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications

# CDC Contact Tracing Quarantine Exception

The CDC has recently made an exception for Close Contact in the K-12 Indoor Classroom Setting

- If students are within 3'-6' of one another, regardless of the length of time, and
- both the infected student and exposed student(s) are correctly and consistently wearing well-fitting masks the entire time
- the exposed students **will not need to quarantine based on contact tracing.**

# PCR & Rapid Antigen Testing



- Allows school to adjust prevention strategies
- Reduces risk of exposure and transmission
- Provides timely and equitable health information to families and promotes access to health providers

# PCR & Rapid Antigen Testing



- Parent permission for under 18
- 18 or older students will be asked to contact their parent prior to administering the self-test kit
- Participation is voluntary. No student will be made to self-administer the test at school if they are unwilling
- Training & supplies—Accelerated Analytical (WI Dept. Health Services)
- Diagnostic testing offered—symptomatic & close contacts

# PCR & Rapid Antigen Testing



- Event testing offered
- Trained school staff provide instruction on student self-administered test
- Sample Type—Nasal swab
  - self-administered—outer part of nasal opening
- PCR Testing—used for students who have symptoms— 1 to 2 day results
- Rapid Antigen Testing--15-30 minute results detects protein(s) from a virus particle
- Tests may be conducted at home with parent supervision
  - Accelerated Analytical provide support

# Rapid Antigen Testing



- Test results are required to be reported to local health departments
- Contact traced/close contacts may reduce the 14-day quarantine to a 7-day quarantine by obtaining:
  - Negative PCR or Rapid Antigen Test
  - Have no symptoms
  - Monitor for symptoms for 14-days

Note: During the 14-day period the CDC recommends wearing masks

Slide updated 8/23/2021

# Vaccinations #1 Preventative

- District will offer annual flu and COVID-19 vaccination clinics in collaboration with the Vernon County Health Department (VCHD)
- VCHD will provide vaccination clinics at schools for 40+ patients; or when vaccines become available for under 12 age group
- 47% of De Soto population of eligible age is vaccinated
- 46.5% of Vernon County of eligible age is vaccinated
- VCHD offers weekly vaccination clinics in Viroqua by online appointment
- Free vaccines are also provided by area pharmacies

# Instructional Models



## ➤ **On-Campus Instruction**

- Learning experiences are at school and in the classroom for all preschool through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students

## ➤ **De Soto Virtual Charter School**

- Enrollment required
- Self-selected curriculum
- Meets core class and elective State requirements and individualized to student interests.
- A **semester commitment** is required.

# Quarantine Instructional Model

## Combination Remote Learning & Handouts

- Applicable for COVID-19 Positive
- Applicable for Contact Traced/Close Contact
  
- Students **join classes from home** when remote learning is available
- Handouts, course work materials and Chromebooks provided

# Continuity of Services

## Reopening School

Focus on social and emotional mental health and **well-being**

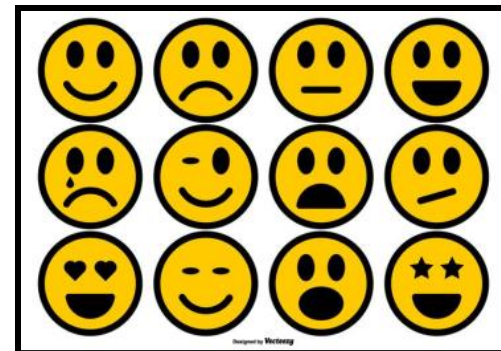
- students and staff inclusion
- anxiety reduction

## High Risk Staff & Students

- Limit exposure and provide learning plan alternatives as deemed necessary.
- Ensure equity of education and support resources for all students
- Provide IEP's and 504 plans

## Climate and Culture

- Welcoming, positive and supportive environment
- Introduce students to new procedures and return to normal operations
- Support social/emotional learning, emotional regulation, social skills, problem solving, and decision-making skills



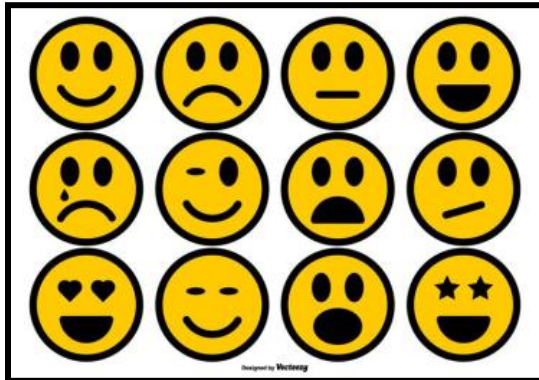
# Continuity of Services

## Wellness

- Promote physical and mental health activities & programs

## Early Outreach

- Parent/student confidential communication options



## Monitoring Student Needs

- Counseling
- Early warning signs
- Response to emerging student needs
- Access to Clinical Social Worker & School Psychologist supports, School Counselor

# Continuity of Services



## Food Service

- Meals will be served on lunch trays
- Staff served meal items
- Eating area--Cafeteria
- Increased menu options
- Quarantined Learners—option to pick up multiple meals at school buildings 2-3 days per week.

# Continuity of Services



## Transportation

### Student Capacity

- Shared seating

### Face Covering/Masks

- School buses are considered public transportation and must follow CDC guidelines
- Passengers and drivers on school buses must wear a mask, including on buses operated by public and private school systems. Ref. Dept. Of Ed COVID-19 Handbook

### Cleaning & Disinfecting

- Buses are cleaned regularly

### Students with Special Needs

- IEP reviews will note accommodation solutions

### Self-Transport

- Parents providing transportation or allowing their high school student to drive are asked to **inform their school for bus transportation planning**

### Drop Off/Pick Up Zones

- Bus and parent drop off/pick up zones will be communicated

# WIAA & Non-School Day Programs

- Conduct all sports and activities in accordance with WIAA regulations or rules inclusive of masking/face coverings
- District will conduct all non-school day programs in accordance with requirements of the program provider inclusive of masking/face coverings

# Student Registration

- Online Registration Process
- Information mailed home to families week of August 9
- Contact child's school if you need assistance or did not receive a mailing

# SCHOOL START DATE



## First Day of School

➤ Wednesday, September 1

### 4-K

➤ Prairie View—Wed, Sept 1

➤ Stoddard—Thu, Sept 2

# School Buildings Open 7:35 AM

- Families asked to not drop off their children before 7:35am
- There is no indoor access.
- There is no supervision prior to 7:35 a.m.

# Stoddard Surround Care

- Limited enrollment Contact Stoddard Elementary for information
- Applications honored on a first come first serve basis
- Hours when school is in session
  - 6:30am-7:30am
  - 3:00-5:30pm

# District Day-to-Day

## **Visitors**

- School day visitors will be restricted until further notice

## **Entrances/Exits**

- Follow normal Safe School protocols

# District Day-to-Day

## **Staff**

- Flexibly utilize staff as needed to cover daily operations prioritizing student learning and safety.

## **Field Trips & Gatherings**

- Planned and phased in to resume traditional community opportunities

## **COVID-19 Point of Contact**

- School—Principal
- District—Superintendent
- Staff—District Nurse

## **Communication**

- SchoolMessenger
- District Website COVID-19 & School Updates
- Local TV/Radio
- Virtual P/T Conferences
- PowerSchool

### **EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES—NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY**

The De Soto Area School District is committed to providing an equal educational opportunity for all students in the District. The District does not discriminate on the basis on the traits of sex (including transgender status, change of sex, or gender identity), race, color, national origin, religion, creed, ancestry, marital or parental status, sexual orientation or physical, mental emotional or learning disability, or any other characteristic protected by Federal or state civil rights laws (hereinafter referred to as “Protected Characteristics”) in any of its student program and activities.