

Park Ridge Schools

Safe Return (In fulfillment of A.R.P)

Revised: December 22, 2021
Board Agenda: January 20, 2022

Universal and correct wearing of masks

All students and faculty have been required to wear a mask on school property, with the mask fully covering the nose and mouth, since the onset of our return to in-school instruction. The nature of these masks have been specified in accordance with CDC and Department of Health rules: they must be cloth/medical masks, and both 'gaiters' and valve masks have been banned. The staff and administration are vigilant in observing and enforcing compliance with these rules. Students, parents, and faculty are periodically reminded of the mask mandate.

Physical distancing

The Park Ridge School District has been in compliance with all rules regarding social distancing. We continue to monitor the regulations provided by the Governor, Department of Health, and Department of Education in order to remain in compliance. In the classroom, desks are measured to comply with physical distancing requirements. In areas of high frequency, dots on the floor indicate social-distancing spacing. Teachers, parents, and administrators have been instructed to help students comply with these guidelines.

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Park Ridge Schools have continually advocated for the health and safety of its student body. During the pandemic, this advocacy has increased, with faculty vigilance and reminders about the need to wash hands and maintain social distancing. Hand sanitizer stations have been installed in all schools, as well as bottles in each classroom. Signage in all buildings and some classrooms has been purchased, and installed, to remind students of the necessity of basic hygiene.

Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities

All 'high-touch' areas in all schools will be thoroughly cleaned between sessions, using BruTab 6s, an EPA-registered disinfectant. Park Ridge maintenance staff will use Buckeye Eco Neutral Disinfectant to clean all bathrooms, according to a schedule set by our Director of Building and Grounds, and modified with input from our administration and the Pandemic Response Teams. A Material Safety Data Sheet for each chemical used in cleaning and sanitizing is on record with our



Board Office. The cleaning schedule for all buildings will emphasize continual, routine cleaning of 'high-touch' services throughout the school day, with a thorough cleaning at the conclusion of each student session. On an ongoing basis, maintenance staff and the administration will monitor student flow and student behavior to determine any necessary amendments to this schedule.

Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments

Staff members have been trained in the Johns Hopkins University COVID-19 Contact Tracing course, including the School Nurse at the High School, the School Nurses at Elementary Level and Elementary Case Manager. These staff members, in conjunction with our principals, have led the contract tracing effort in order to identify all students who may be deemed in 'close contact' with any students exposed or testing positive to COVID. Students or staff who have required quarantine were notified. Parent notification has been swift, and our staff and administration have monitored guidelines from the Department of Health, Governor, and DOE to update our policy on contact tracing and quarantine length.

Diagnostic and screening testing

The Park Ridge School District has adopted Board Policy 1648 regarding the screening procedures for students and employees upon arrival at school or work location for symptoms and history of exposure. These screening procedures include visually checking for symptoms, and frequent reminders for parents to screen and check their children. Students and staff with COVID-like symptoms have been respectfully isolated from others, and all symptoms, testing, and results have been kept as private records in accordance with all privacy laws.

Staff who are unvaccinated are routinely tested, in accordance with Governor Murphy's vaccine mandate. Unvaccinated staff take a saliva PCR test once a week on site, and samples are sent to a laboratory. Nurses can access the results directly, usually within 24 hours.

Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible

The Park Ridge School District has enthusiastically advocated for the safe, timely vaccination of all members of the community. As vaccinations became available, the District coordinated with local health organizations to provide appointment time at local vaccination sites. As staff members became eligible for these vaccinations, subsequent and more extensive appointment opportunities were made available. In addition, the District provided an additional sick-day to faculty to use for side-effects related to the second dose of the vaccination.



Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies

In planning for the reopening of the Park Ridge Public School District members of the Special Services Department sat on all of the different reopening committees in the district in order to ensure the needs of our students with IEPs and 504s were represented. The table of Special Programs and Related Services that is included in our reopening plan represents the collaborative efforts of administrators, CST members, teachers, related service providers and parents. This plan does allow for students to receive their core instruction in small groups and contains the necessary accommodations and modifications as dictated by the students IEP or 504 plan. Staff continues to monitor for IEP and 504 compliance.

Describe how the LEA will ensure continuity of services including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs and students' and staff social emotional mental health and other needs which may include student health and food services.

The Park Ridge School District has reopened to the maximum capacity allowed by law. As of December, 2021, all schools in the district are open for full-day instruction. A comprehensive SEL plan, including professional development, a 'warm-line' with Bergen Healthcare for the staff, and implementation of SEL guidelines in the curricula support both staff and students as we carry on with regular, full-day instruction.

Describe how the LEA sought public comment on its plan and how it took those public comment into account in the development of its plan.

This plan has been published on our website. The link for the website is included in this application.

A copy of the plan was also put on our Board of Education agenda for June 14, 2021. The plan was reviewed by the Board, and opened for public comment. The revision is on our Board of Education agenda for January 20, 2021, and open for public comment.

Describe how the LEA ensured that the plan is in an understandable and uniform format; is to the extent practicable written in a language that parents can understand or if not practicable to provide written translations to a parent with limited English proficiency will be orally translated for such a parent; and upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA will be provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent.



The Park Ridge School District has provided the plan in a format that is uniform with other documentation produced by the District. It is freely available on the website. Staff are available to orally translate the document upon request, and both guidance and Special Education faculty are available to assist any parent who requests further support.

Briefly describe any guidance professional learning and technical assistance opportunities the LEA will make available to its schools.

The District administrative team has planned extensive professional development for this year. Professional development focusing on SEL practices, as well as formative assessment, will help our staff to understand and focus on growing our learners in order to 'accelerate' their learning. Professional collaboration and vertical articulation are planned to help support these PD ideas on an ongoing basis. The introduction of PLCs to our elementary teachers, as well as continuation of PLCs on the Jr./Sr. high school level will also help to round out our professional development.