

Blooming Prairie Public Schools

Return to In-Person Safe Learning Plan

2021

Introduction

Blooming Prairie Public Schools is working to ensure that the district continues to improve the education that it provides its' students and positions itself for a bright future in a post-pandemic environment. The ARP Act is providing financial support to help schools return safely to in-person instruction, maximize in-person instructional time, sustain the safe operation of schools, and address the academic, social, emotional, and mental health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Nation's students.

Blooming Prairie Public Schools will use its ARP ESSER funds for the following:

- 1. Addressing academic impact/learning loss:**
 - a. Blossom Academy Summer School– K – 6
 - b. Blossom Academy Afterschool Programming – 4 - 6
 - c. ZED Summer School – 7 – 12 (Credit Recovery)
 - d. Academic Interventions
 - i. Math Intervention – 8th grade
 - ii. Reading Intervention – 8th grade
 - e. Additional Special Education Teacher – High School
 - f. Additional Teachers (Lower class sizes)
 - g. Additional Para Support - Elementary
- 2. Addressing the social, emotional and mental health needs of all students, staff and families.**
 - a. Mental Health Supports
 - b. Caring School Community (Social/Emotional Curriculum) – implemented K – 8.
 - c. Chemical Dependency Councilor
- 3. Technology Advancements**

Students in grades K -12 will have access 1 to 1 access to a device. Families needing internet support should reach out the building principals and internet access will be provided.

- a. *Use of the district's electronic technologies is for educational purposes. Students (and employees) are expected to use electronic technologies to further the district's educational mission, goals and strategic direction. Students (and employees) are expected to use the district's electronic technologies to support classroom activities, educational research or professional enrichment. Use of the district's electronic technologies is a privilege, not a right. Use of the technologies in violation of any district policy and specifically the school discipline policy is expressly prohibited and may result in the loss of the privilege.*

- b. *Additional Wi-Fi hubs are being installed at the elementary level to increase connectivity.*
 - c. *TV's/Apple TV's are being installed at both the elementary and high school to increase student engagement and best utilize resources to enhance the education that Blooming Prairie Public Schools provides its' students.*
 - d. *Purchase Web-based instructional programs/platforms (examples: I-XCEL, See-Saw, etc.)*
- 4. Prevention and mitigation strategies that are, to the greatest extent practicable, consistent with the most recent CDC guidance, in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning.**
- a. Indoor air quality improvements
 - i. Blooming Prairie Public Schools has added Needle Point Bi-Polar Ionization to both the elementary and the high school to improve our indoor air-quality. We are also entering into a maintenance agreement with a Mechanical company to increase the level of efficiency with our air-handling units and continually provide quality indoor air for students and staff.
 - b. Masks
 - i. There is no longer a statewide requirement to wear face coverings in most settings.
 - ii. The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) strongly recommend that anyone who is not fully vaccinated continue to wear face coverings indoors in businesses, public settings, and when around people from other households, as well as outdoors when social distancing cannot be maintained.
 - iii. Masks will be optional.
 - iv. As of June 7, 2021, masks will only be required on school transportation vehicles.
 - c. Health Screening Process
 - i. The CDC does not recommend universal screening of symptoms (screening all students) to be conducted by schools. However, we encourage families to do the following:
 - ii. Complete a wellness check prior to coming to school (verification of no fever, illness, COVID symptoms, etc.)
 - iii. Students who are sick should not attend school in-person.
 - d. Communication
 - i. Families are REQUIRED to report a positive case of COVID-19 to the COVID Coordinator or School Nurse. Families of the program (Blossom Academy, Athletics, etc.) will be notified of a positive COVID-19 case.
 - e. Contact Tracing

- i. Families will be notified if their child has been exposed to a positive COVID-19 case.
- f. Attendance/Rosters
 - i. Daily attendance will be recorded for each class/activity.
- g. Student and Staff COVID-19 Testing
 - i. Minnesota and Vault Medical Services have teamed up to offer no-barrier, at-home COVID-19 saliva testing for everyone who lives in Minnesota, with or without symptoms. You can read more about this service on the Minnesota Department of Health [website](#).
- h. Vaccinations for School Age Students
 - i. Individuals age 12 and older are currently eligible for the Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. Community sites continue to offer vaccinations to students age 12 and up. General information is available on the Steele County Vaccine [page](#). The State of Minnesota Vaccine Locator [tool](#) allows searching by zip code, distance, age group, and more.
- i. Other Mitigation Strategies
 - i. Hand-sanitizer pumps have been installed in classrooms and common areas throughout the high school and elementary school.
 - ii. Students will use hand-sanitizer when they enter and exit classrooms and common areas.
 - iii. Signage will be displayed throughout the elementary and high school buildings to remind students and staff of best practices related to hand washing, covering your cough, and social distancing.
 - iv. Students will be allowed to bring personal water bottles. Drinking fountains will be available with water bottler fillers.
 - v. Individual classrooms will have additional safety protocols in place.
 - vi. Paper towel dispensers have replaced hand dryers at the high school.

Communications

- The District is committed to regular communications with parents and the community during these events. The following contacts are our primary sources of information. Parents who are concerned about the virus itself should contact:
- **MDH Coronavirus Hotline:** 651-201-3920 (Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.).
- **Additional MDH Contact Information:** Schools.covid19@state.mn.us, 651-201-5414.
- **Blooming Prairie School Nurse:** Amanda Rennie, (507) 583 – 6615 ext. 225, a.rennie@blossoms.k12.mn.us

WEBSITES/RESOURCES

- **AASA:** <https://www.aasa.org/coronavirus.aspx>
- **MDH:** <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/index.html>
- **MDH GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS:** <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools.html>

- **CDC:** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Community Education

- Community Education programs will continue to be held as scheduled, unless schools in the District where the activities are scheduled have been closed due to the Coronavirus.
- The programs would be relocated, rescheduled or canceled, depending upon the situation.
- Information regarding class/event cancellations will be emailed to all registered participants, posted on our website and social media channels (Facebook and Twitter).
- Refunds will be given for registrations for classes or special events that are cancelled due to the Coronavirus.

Technology

- The Technology Department will assist teachers in helping to collaborate, build and share instructional resources. Please contact Erik Vigeland, evigeland@blossoms.k12.mn.us with technology and support questions.
- Families having technical issues should communicate through their teachers, who will follow standard operating procedures for acquiring and documenting technical assistance.

Mental Health Resources

- Susan Arnold is our school linked mental health counselor and is out of Steele County Member Services. She can be reached by contacting our school counselor, Mary Worke, or our school social worker, Kristin Romeo. In addition, both Mrs. Worke and Mrs. Romeo are available to support students and families during this time.
 - Mrs. Worke mworke@blossoms.k12.mn.us 507-583-4426 x428
 - Mrs. Romeo kromeo@blossoms.k12.mn.us 507-583-6615 x 228

Family Needs

Families are encouraged to contact the high school office, 507-583-4426 or the elementary office, 507-583-6615 with any questions or concerns. The offices are open M-F from 7:50 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Public Comment

This document was discussed at an Education Foundation Meeting on June 14th to about 10 community members. There were no comments regarding the document, just hope that next year would look “normal”.

This document was presented at our school board work session on June 17th. The school board thanked administration for completing this work. One school board member said, “this is extensive.” There were no other comments.