DKS is excited for students to return to school for the 2021-2022 school year! This bulletin will provide a summary of the safety protocols we have in place for the upcoming school year for in-person learning. We are keeping many of the protocols we had in place last school year, though there have been some adjustments. Our main priority is to keep students and staff safe, while also creating a welcoming environment to support learning.

Online learning is still available for students K-12. We have made some adjustments to our online learning program including a new online program for students K-5 and increased supports. Online learning continues to be preferred by many families and it is our goal to continue supporting families by providing this option. Please visit our website, www.dkschools.org, or click here for more information on our online learning option.

Our goal is to provide in-person learning every day and to keep all students and staff as safe as possible! To do this, we will follow the protocols and mitigation strategies detailed here. These will be reviewed and evaluated regularly in collaboration with the Barry-Eaton District Health Department (BEDHD).

The school day will follow a traditional schedule, with accommodations made to follow safety protocols outlined in this document. Attendance for in-person learning will be based on attendance in classes. All grading and assessment protocols of a traditional school year will be followed.

We are required by law to follow any mandates set forth by BEDHD, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), and Centers for Disease Control (CDC). All protocols are subject to change based on BEDHD, MDHHS and CDC recommendations, guidance, and mandates.

If you have questions about this year’s Return to Learn Plan, please contact Superintendent Dr. Kyle Corlett at 269-623-1501 or kyle.corlett@dkschools.org.
Masks will be OPTIONAL for any individual in the school or on school grounds.

Masks are REQUIRED on buses or any school transportation.

Based on the current low levels of infection and community transmission in Barry County, masks will be optional for students, staff, and visitors. If community transmission is substantial as defined by the CDC, BEDHD or MDHHS may mandate masks to be worn.

Current federal guidelines mandate the wearing of masks by all individuals, students and staff, regardless of vaccination status, while on public transportation, including school buses. A doctor’s note is required to be medically exempt from wearing a facial covering.

Schools are required by law to follow mandates or risk being shut down, fined, or having school officials being imprisoned. At this time, it does not appear that masks will be mandated by the CDC, MDHHS, or BEDHD, but that is subject to change.

If infection rates increase in our area, or if there is a school outbreak, we may be mandated to require masks as an alternative to closing buildings or shifting to virtual programming. Currently, the CDC, MDHHS, and BEDHD recommend masks being worn by all students and staff within school buildings.

Vaccinations will NOT be required for students or staff.
Contact Tracing and Symptom Monitoring

We are required by BEDHD/MDHHS to contact trace students and staff who have been identified as close contacts to anyone COVID-positive on school grounds, transportation, or extracurricular events.

DKS will not place students into quarantine, but is required to report close contacts that we are aware of to BEDHD, who may then place students into quarantine.

If students are identified as a close contact, but are vaccinated, they will not be required to quarantine provided that they share proof of vaccination, per BEDHD policy. Also, students who have tested positive for COVID within 90 days of being identified as a close contact will also not need to quarantine.

Parents or guardians are encouraged to screen their students daily for symptoms of COVID-19 and other illnesses, and if they are ill, to keep them at home. All families will be provided with an at-home self-screener checklist to help with this at-home monitoring. Families are encouraged to check their child’s temperature at home every morning using oral, tympanic, or temporal scanners.

- The presence of any symptoms, including cough or shortness of breath, should prompt the family to keep the student home from school and to follow up with a primary care provider.
- Students with a temperature of 100.4 or greater should stay home and consider coronavirus testing if symptoms of COVID-19 are present.
Classroom Setup and Cleaning

Our commitment to providing the smallest class sizes possible carries through into the upcoming school year. Additionally, we will continue to use cohorting and seating charts to minimize the amount of students that may be required by the health department to quarantine due to contact tracing.

When possible, we will socially distance within the classroom, cafeteria, and in the hallways, and will encourage the use of outdoor spaces for learning and play.

The cleaning protocols that were in place last school year will continue. We will encourage students to wash their hands, utilize hand sanitizer, and cover their mouths if they cough or sneeze.

DKS will provide adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors for use by staff and students (including soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, paper towels, tissues, and signs reinforcing proper handwashing techniques).

Portable hand sanitizing stations will be set up at entrances and throughout school buildings. Hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms. Students and teachers will be encouraged to wash hands with soap and water every 2-3 hours.

Disinfecting wipes will be available to all classrooms to encourage the regular disinfecting of any shared classroom materials.

All students are strongly encouraged to have their own school supplies to limit sharing of personal items and supplies such as writing utensils.
Calendar, Volunteer, and Event Information

Each DKS building will open to students at 7:40 a.m. and dismiss at 2:50 p.m. Specific times and details concerning tardies and absences will be communicated by each specific building.

Parents that drop off prior to 7:40 a.m. will need to utilize our Panther Clubhouse Daycare and pre-register for this service. Hours of operation are 6:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Please know that space is limited.

Offices will be open at each building for visitors to speak with secretarial and administrative staff. However, we ask that visitors only enter the office when necessary and not linger.

We will begin the school year with no volunteers in the buildings. When we announce the return of building volunteers, they must complete a background check (forms are available at dkschools.org and in each building’s office), and will be allowed by appointment only. Prior to entering the building, adult volunteers will be required to:

- Answer a short screener for symptoms
- Be advised of their option wear a facial covering
- Wash or sanitize their hands
- Sign in and sign out, including date and time, when entering and exiting the building

All athletic teams will be required to follow guidelines set forth by MHSAA or mandates established by MDHHS.

Extracurricular events, assemblies, and field trips will be considered on a case-by-case basis. All indoor and outdoor gatherings will comply with current and future executive orders.

Click here to view the 2021-2022 District Calendar
Mental and Social-Emotional Wellbeing

Delton Kellogg School District will provide a Student Support Team comprised of the following resources:

- Pine Rest and Barry County Community Mental Health Counselors
- Elementary, Middle, and High School Counselors
- Elementary, Middle, and High School Administrators
- Elementary and Middle School Student Support Specialists
- A K-12 School Social Worker

An online referral or request for support form will be available at each building for identification and rapid referral of at-risk students and family needs.

Staff will be provided with timely, responsive, and ongoing training and professional development as well as the tools and resources needed for implementation. Topics will include:

- Social-emotional learning
- Trauma-informed best practices
- Identification of at-risk students and proper local referral protocols
- Self-care to promote wellness and resilience and to prevent burnout and trauma

Pine Rest and Barry County Community Mental Health counselors will serve as the district’s mental health liaison, and will work across the school, local public health agencies, and community partners.

If you have questions about this year’s Return to Learn Plan, please contact Superintendent Dr. Kyle Corlett at 269-623-1501 or kyle.corlett@dkschools.org.