



ALSIP, HAZELGREEN AND OAK LAWN SCHOOL DISTRICT 126

Craig Gwaltney
Superintendent

Steve Gress
Assistant Superintendent

11900 South Kostner Avenue
Alsip, IL 60803-2307
708-389-1900
Fax: 708-396-3793
www.dist126.org

Hazelgreen Elementary
Lane Elementary
Stony Creek Elementary
Prairie Junior High

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Dear District 126 Parents and Guardians,

The health, safety, and well being of students and staff is our number one priority. The best place for our students to learn is in the classroom. **We are planning for a full return to in-person learning for all students five days a week following the traditional school schedule for the 2021-2022 school year.** The first day of school is Monday, August 23, 2021.

District 126 is diligently examining and evaluating the ever changing guidance regarding COVID-19 preventive mitigation strategies. Once again this school year, District 126 will follow the most current health guidance from the [Center of Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) and [Illinois Department of Public Health](#) (IDPH) to ensure everyone's health and safety.

Currently Planned District Prevention / Mitigation Strategies

Masks in Schools

Illinois Governor JB Pritzker announced on August 4th masks will be required for all students, staff, and guests in schools for all preschool - 12th grade schools regardless of vaccination status. The mask requirement also includes youth sports and activities with masks now required for all indoor extracurriculars and sports.

While we acknowledge the conflicting community views, please understand that our school district is required to follow the Governor's mask mandate. We are planning for a successful 2021-2022 school year with a focus on student learning, engagement, and safety.

Masks on School Busses

All individuals, regardless of vaccination status, **MUST** wear a mask while riding a school bus. Full bus capacity is allowed.

Social Distancing

We will follow the CDC recommendation of maintaining at least 3 feet of physical distance between students when possible. We know there will be times when this is not possible due to the population in classrooms and additional school spaces, however the additional mitigation strategies will maximize safety for all.

Ventilation

District 126 has state of the art HVAC systems and continues to use upgraded air filters and maximize the fresh air intake throughout all schools.

Clearing and Disinfection

We will continue to follow the CDC recommendations with regard to cleaning and disinfection. Hand sanitizer, sanitizing wipes, and clearing supplies will continue to be available in all classrooms and offices. Deep cleaning and sanitizing of all classrooms and offices will take place daily. Click [HERE](#) to view the updated guidance.

Quarantine and Isolation

We will continue to follow the CDC recommendations with regard to quarantine and isolation. Click [HERE](#) to view the updated guidance.

Screening Testing

COVID-19 screening testing will be made available with parent consent. This will be used as a mitigation tool for asymptomatic students and staff. Details will be shared with families as soon as possible.

Breakfast and Lunch

When students are eating, they will remain three feet apart when possible and students wearing a mask will be allowed to remove them while eating and drinking.

Remote Learning This School Year

The expectation is that all of our students will be attending school in-person this upcoming school year. Illinois school districts are not required to provide remote learning options for students other than when a student is quarantined. If a student is quarantining and not required by the school to do so, parents will be required to provide a medical note indicating the student must quarantine.

Our goal is to keep all students healthy and safe while they learn in-person with their teachers and peers. Based on widespread scientific consensus, we know that proven mitigation strategies listed above will keep students healthy, safe, and supported. The mitigation strategies are in place so we can keep our doors open and allow our students to receive some badly needed in-person instruction.

We will continue to provide our families updates as guidelines change. One thing that was learned from last year, is that flexibility and patience is needed to get through this pandemic together. We look forward to welcoming all our students back to school in a few short weeks. If you have questions, please contact your building principal.

Sincerely,

Craig Gwaltney
Superintendent