

Antwerp Local Schools Re-Opening Plan

2020-2021 School Year

The Antwerp Local School staff is eagerly awaiting the return of students to our school building. With the assistance of local health experts, we are pleased to announce that Antwerp Local Schools intends to offer an innovative, public health-informed, **In-Person** start to the 2020-2021 school year. Students will be able to attend our school and engage in-person with a structured environment centered around public health and wellness with a multitude of safety measures in place.

The planning we've done to get us to this point has been extensive. Antwerp Local Schools staff have engaged in discussions with experts from the health and medical field and numerous school leaders across Ohio to gather their ideas, concerns, and best practices to safely bring students back into our school. We plan to institute multiple layers of safeguards to protect your child's health such as social distancing, hand-washing, use of hand sanitizers and face coverings. With respect to guidelines established by the Ohio Department of Health, students in grades 3 – 12 and school staff are requested to wear a face covering throughout most of school day. We have also re-structured how students will move about in the school building and the frequency of their movement as a means of limiting contact with others.

In order to effectively carry out our re-opening, we will need parents to assist us with educating your child on the importance of maintaining safety routines and exhibiting healthy behaviors. School personnel will likewise continually emphasize and reinforce student responsibility for safe and healthy behaviors that protect them and those around them. School personnel will clean, disinfect, and sanitize our school buses after the a.m. and p.m. routes. Our custodians will likewise have a detailed time schedule to clean, disinfect, and sanitize our restrooms, playground, and high traffic areas. Students are requested to carry a container of disinfectant wipes (assuming they are available) in their backpack for the purpose of cleaning their desk prior to moving to another location.

The first major hurdle to overcome in our re-opening plan has to do with getting our students to school and home by bus transportation. In an effort to limit the number of students on our buses, we encourage parents to transport their child to and from school, especially our students who ride the town route bus. We realize that may not be possible in many cases and therefore, we will do our best to provide a safe and healthy bus trip for your child. If your child is riding the bus, they are required to wear a face covering from the moment they step onto the bus until they step off the bus at the school or coming home in the afternoon. Bus riders will also have access to hand sanitizer as they enter and exit the bus. Bus riders will practice social distancing as they move about on the bus. Bus riders will sit in an assigned seat facing forward and are encouraged to limit conversation during the bus ride. Children with other family members on the bus will be seated together if possible. An Instant Alert will be sent to parents

in early August seeking your input regarding if you desire for bus transportation of your children.

Whether your child rides the bus to school, drives to school, or is dropped off, all students and staff will have their temperature taken as they enter the school building. Bus riders will enter through the A-Wing entry. Students driving to school and those who are dropped off will enter through the main entry. Students with temperatures above 100 degrees will be directed to a room and have their temperature taken again by our school nurse after a short stay. If the child's high temperature remains, the child will be required to go home and remain at home until 48-hours have passed without a fever and no medication. Parents are requested to have plans in place in order that the sick child be picked up from school immediately. Students may return to school after 24 hours with a doctor's note specifying a negative test for COVID-19.

Our second major hurdle to overcome in our re-opening plan is limiting student movement and contact, and maximizing student spacing in our classrooms, hallways, playgrounds, and cafeteria. As a means to limit student movement and contact with other students, we have refined the number of times elementary students will leave their classrooms and structured specific times of the day for classes to utilize the restrooms, wash hands, and refill their personal clear water bottle. At the MS/HS level, we have reduced our class periods to four "block" periods thus eliminating the number of times students will move to various classrooms. Structured times for restroom use and personal clear water bottle refill will also be utilized with students in grades 6 – 12. MS/HS students will have an assigned locker but only for use at the beginning, mid-day and end of the day. Otherwise, students will utilize a backpack to carry books, supplies, disinfectant wipes container, and clear water bottle.

Maximizing student spacing in classrooms will be accomplished through the use of individual student desk or tables with dividers spaced at a distance from each other. When students are moving through the hallways, students will be requested to stay 6 feet apart and walk along the nearest wall (right shoulder) and directional flow similar to driving on a roadway. During elementary recess time and MS/HS lunch/break time, students will be reminded of social distancing and use of facial covering. Probably our greatest spacing concern during the school day will take place in the cafeteria. As a means to limit contact, cafeteria tables will be equipped with 18" high dividers that create a barrier between each individual student. At times, students may also eat their lunch in other locations in the building.

Our third major hurdle to overcome in our re-opening plan is to provide instruction for students who have significant underlying health issues or immediate family members with health issues, and the In-Person Normal School Program may pose too great a risk for their situation. Parents desiring to keep their child at home and receive short term remote school instruction provided by the school, are requested to contact the respective school office beginning August 1st. Following the contact, parents will receive additional information regarding the Remote Learning Plan.

Our school may at some point have a student who tests positive for COVID-19. Students who test positive for the virus will be quarantined at home for a minimum of fourteen days along with a requirement for clearance from the Paulding County Health Department to return to school. Our school will provide short term remote school instruction during the student's absences from the school building.

Furthermore, we may have students who will come into direct contact with a person with the coronavirus. The Paulding County Health Department has protocols they will follow and if necessary, quarantine students from school for a minimum of fourteen days. Our school will likewise, provide short term remote school instruction during the student's absence from the school building.

It is also probable that a COVID-19 health situation will arise during the upcoming school year that forces our school to move from an **In-Person Normal School Program** to a **Hybrid School Program** or **Remote Distance Learning School Program**.

***With a Hybrid School Program**, half of our grades 1 - 12 student body (Group Blue) will attend school in person for a two-week period of time while the other half of the grades 1 - 12 student body (Group White) are at home receiving distance learning instruction from their teachers. Family members will be placed in the same group. Following the two-week session, Group Blue and White will switch locations. Our students with academic IEP's, will not be placed in a group and therefore, will continually receive all instruction at school. Kindergarten students will be divided into two sections and attend school on an all-day every other day basis with alternating Fridays. There will be no change to the typical Pre-School schedule of a half day Monday-Thursday of each week.

***With a Remote Distance Learning School Program**, all students receive their education at home similar to how we finished the prior school year. While we would like to avoid this type of program, it is a real possibility especially as we approach the winter flu season. During the next few months, school staff will receive professional development training dealing with best practices of providing remote distance learning for students.

The information contained in this document is subject to rapid change due to the nature of the ongoing COVID-19 situation.

Dr. Martin A. Miller

Antwerp Local Schools Superintendent

