

August 6, 2021

Dear Families,

We hope the summer has provided time of relaxation and fun with family and friends. As we enter August and approach the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year, I want to share some back to school information.

COVID-19

Our goal is to provide as much normalcy to the school environment and school year as possible. However, with the COVID-19 pandemic still lingering, Lucas Local schools is preparing several strategies to promote a safe and healthy learning environment. While Lucas Local Schools cannot eliminate all risk factors related to the COVID-19 pandemic, these protocols are being implemented to reduce the potential risks.

COVID-19 Protocols

(in accordance with guidance from Richland Public Health, Ohio Department of Health, and CDC):

- Parents should conduct a health screening with their student(s) each day.
 - o Sick students need to stay home until symptom free
- COVID-19 vaccination is encouraged (but not mandated) for anyone eligible
- Face masks are highly recommended for everyone at school regardless of vaccination status
 - o Face masks will be required for school transportation (per CDC emergency order)
- Physical distancing to the extent possible
- Frequent Hand washing and hand sanitizer availability
- Enhanced cleaning and sanitizing
- Maximized HVAC ventilation and air purification
- Water bottle filling stations
- Traffic flow patterns will be designated within the buildings
- Seating charts
- Quarantine guidelines (Ohio Department of Health)
- COVID-19 home test kits will be available

Included with this information is the most recent guidance from Richland Public Health and Ohio Department of Health, including the quarantine guidelines released yesterday.

Please understand that procedures and protocols may change at any time based on new/updated guidance from Richland Public Health, Ohio Department of Education, Ohio Department of Health, CDC, or any other governmental authority.

Transportation

Transportation for the 2021-2022 school year will be similar to last year. Because of social distancing challenges on a bus, these procedures are necessary for health and safety.

Bus Procedures:

- All students will be assigned a seat. Seating will be assigned by households when possible.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided and used when boarding the bus.
- Students **must wear proper face coverings** at all times, per CDC emergency order.
- Students must remain seated at all times (even while the bus is stationary)
- Pickup and Dropoff will be at student's registered address, unless another location is agreed upon with the transportation supervisor prior to the start of the school year
- No alternative pickup and dropoff locations will be allowed. In emergency situations, contact the transportation supervisor, Mark Sauder. Email sauder.mark@lucascubs.org or phone 419-892-2338 x21500.

Meals

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has extended the free meal program until June of 2022. This extension will allow schools to continue to serve free meals, breakfast and lunch, to all students in the school district.

Although we are currently able to offer free meals to all students, we encourage all parents who feel they may qualify for free/reduced meals to turn in an application.

We appreciate the flexibility, cooperation, and support our families continue to demonstrate. We look forward to the excitement of a new school year, and the continued team effort in meeting the needs of our students.

Stay safe and go Cubs!

Brad Herman

Superintendent