

PERU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT 124
Community Reopening Guide and Information
Fall 2020–2021



Northview Elementary School
Parkside Middle School



Peru Elementary School District 124 Reopening Plan Fall 2020-2021

Community Reopening Guide and Information

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Message from Superintendent Jamie Craven

As we began the process of developing a reopening plan for this unprecedented fall, we focused on the following guiding principles:

1. Maintain the health and safety of all students and staff.
2. Provide meaningful and engaging learning experiences for all students.
3. Address the social-emotional needs of all students.
4. Provide clarity, consistency, and stability for all students and staff.
5. Provide ongoing professional development for staff to address the learning needs unique to the time.

We surveyed our families and staff to ensure we had direction on what your collective wishes were. We appreciate your participation and feedback. In our initial survey, 75% of families indicated that they preferred some in-person learning opportunity on alternative days over full remote learning. Using this information, and taking into consideration many other factors, our Reintegration Committee developed the two options for our students which were released on July 24th. As families complete the registration process, you will be asked to make a final decision on what option you will select.

I understand that the recommended plan will not meet the needs or wishes of all members of our school community, but please know I am confident we did our best to adhere to the guiding principles listed above.

Again, thank you for your patience and support as we have worked through this process. We will do everything we can to make this a safe and productive year for your student(s).

Sincerely,
Jamie Craven

Reopening Plan

Schedule & Curriculum

Students are assigned an in-person attendance group based on their last name. Students will be in remote learning when they are not at Parkside or Northview for in-person learning. We aligned our days with LPHS as closely as possible to try and accommodate those families with high school students so they will all be at home learning on the same days.

Grades K – 8

- Red Day – In-person learning for students with last names **A - Limberg**.
- Green Day – In-person learning for students with last names **Link - Z**.
- On days when students are at home, they will be remote learning.
- Fridays, unless otherwise noted, will be reserved for remote activities, enrichment activities, social/emotional learning, remote small group instruction, and the possibility of scheduled in-person learning appointments.

1st Trimester Daily Schedules

Northview	8:45-1:20
Parkside	8:20-1:05

Note: Adjustments and revisions will be made if additional guidance or requirements are given from Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). The second trimester schedule will be released at a later date when further guidance and recommendations are provided by ISBE.

PreK

In-person learning only Monday - Thursday (no remote learning opportunity)

AM Class: 8:15-10:45

PM Class: 11:45-2:15

Full Day Class: 8:45-1:20

Parkside Life Skills and Autism Program

In-person learning only Monday - Thursday (no remote learning opportunity)

Parkside Life Skills Class: 8:20 a.m. - 1:05 p.m.

Northview Autism Class: 9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Communication and Instructional Programming

- Google Classroom
 - All classrooms will use Google Classroom or Seesaw depending on grade level
- Curriculum
 - All students, remote and in-person, will cover the same instructional standards and cover similar material.
 - It is important to understand that those students opting out of in-person learning may have limited access to elective courses.
- Grading
 - Both remote and in-person students will have the same grading system.
- Software programs
 - Both remote and in-person students will have access to the same software programming.
- Zoom/Google Meets
 - Both remote and in-person students will be able to virtually meet their teachers/counselor/administrators through a Zoom/Google Meets introduction.
 - In-person parent events such as orientation, Open House, and parent-teacher conferences will be suspended and replaced with virtual events.

Remote Learning 2019-20 and Virtual Classroom 2020-21

It is vital for parents and students to know we listened to the feedback on our performance during the 3rd trimester of last year, and we have changed our protocols and practices accordingly. Below you will find an explanation of the changes we are implementing in a format that compares and contrasts our expectations to the experience this past spring.

Please understand that even if you have no intention of selecting Virtual Classroom as your option, it may become necessary during the 2020-2021 school year for ALL students to transition to Virtual Classroom for a period of time.

It is important to reiterate that any student opting for Virtual Classroom SHALL remain in Remote Learning until the conclusion of the first trimester (November 6, 2020). A deadline for notification to move from Remote to In-Person at the conclusion of the first trimester will be announced at a later date.

Prior Experience & Expectation

This past spring, we entered into emergency remote learning due to COVID-19 and the mandated state closure of schools. Teachers changed how they delivered content overnight as they tried to extend the learning experience of the school year by reviewing and re-teaching concepts from in-person learning the majority of time.

- **Learning/Communication Platforms:** Students experienced vastly different learning and communication platforms across the district, within buildings and even within classrooms.
- **Delivery of Content:** The delivery of content varied by grade level and teacher.
- **Grading/Academic Expectations:** All students were “held harmless” and grades were not to be negatively impacted due to emergency remote learning.
- **Student Supports:** Necessary student supports were not universally available.
- **Student Device and Access:** Chromebooks or iPads were distributed for all who requested access. Students who used district devices were monitored for safety and were expected to adhere to the district Acceptable Use Policy.

New Expectation & Experience with Virtual Classroom

Over the past two months, we have asked for your feedback and recommendations for improvements to the remote learning experience. We have attempted to be thoughtful in our approach and your feedback has certainly guided our efforts. This year, based upon your feedback and research our staff has conducted, the experience and expectations will be greatly improved for students and staff who are participating in Virtual Classroom. The information below provides a snapshot of the efforts made to ensure students' educational experiences will be as rewarding as possible.

- **Learning/Communication Platforms**
 - In an effort to provide consistency and clarity, Google Classroom will be used as the learning and communication management platform for all students in grades 1-8. Seesaw will be used for PreK - K students.
 - Faculty and staff will also be available through their school email address and via Zoom during teacher office hours.
- **Delivery of Content**
 - Students will be provided with structured schedules.
 - Students will participate in structured and scheduled engagement of academics.

- Students will engage in scheduled Zoom and/or Google Meets conferencing with classes and firm expectations must be met.
- New curriculum will continue to be introduced and covered.
- Teachers will stream or record lessons to facilitate new learning experiences.
- **Grading/Academic Expectations**
 - Students will be required to be present, and attendance will be recorded through Google Classroom or Seesaw.
 - Students will be expected to complete assignments and assessments by the assigned due dates.
 - Grading and feedback on assignments and assessments will be similar to general in-person school expectations.
- **Student Supports**
 - Faculty and staff will have “office hours” of availability.
 - Social workers, staff members, and administrators will be available for social-emotional supports for students.
 - Students will be assigned pre-scheduled social work sessions via Zoom.
 - Special education services will be provided within Virtual Classroom.
- **Student Device and Access**
 - All students who are enrolled in Virtual Classroom will be provided with a district device if they do not have one available.
 - Students that are in-person learning and need a device when they go home will be provided with a district device.
 - Students will continue to be monitored for safety and will be expected to adhere to the district Acceptable Use Policy.

In-Person Learning

Instruction

The K-4 Experience

Students will have the same teacher leading them through the in-person and remote portions of their learning. For example, if they have Mr. Smith as their teacher when they meet in-person on Monday and Wednesday, Mr. Smith will then serve as their remote learning support on Tuesday and Thursday. Again, teachers will have “office hours” to make themselves available to students for needed support. On Friday, Mr. Smith will not have in-person instructional responsibilities, but will have “office hours” to assist students.

The 5-8 Experience

Students will follow an abbreviated academic schedule (6 academic period schedule) on in-person learning days. Students will have their content area teachers leading them through the in-person and remote portions of their learning. Their schedules will be similar to their regular middle school schedule with passing periods.

Transportation

Students arriving at school must enter one of the following doors based on transportation.

Parkside

Bus Riders

Exit bus on east side of the building and enter door #1 (Church Street entrance) and social distance six feet apart until it is time to enter the building. In the event of inclement weather, students will enter door #1 and maintain social distance inside the building.

Car Riders

Exit cars on west side of the building (Sycamore Lakes subdivision side) and social distance six feet apart until it is time to enter the building. In the event of inclement weather, students will enter door #1 and maintain social distance inside the building.

Walkers/Bike Riders

Students will park bikes in the racks and social distance six feet apart at the front entrance until it is time to enter the building.

Northview

Bus Riders

Exit bus on east side of the building and enter door #1 (Plum Street entrance) and social distance in your class lines until it is time to enter the building.

PreK – 1st grade Car Riders - students cannot be dropped off any earlier than 8:30 a.m.

Exit cars on north side of the building and social distance six feet apart in class lines until it is time to enter the building. PreK enters through Door #5, Kindergarten enters through Door #6, 1st Grade enters through Door #5.

2nd – 4th grade Car Riders - students cannot be dropped off any earlier than 8:30 a.m.

Exit cars on south side of the building (Shooting Park Road entrance) and proceed to your class lines on the playground on the west side of the building and social distance six feet apart until it is time to enter the building. 4th grade enters through door #19, 3rd grade enters through door #7, 2nd grade enters through door #10.

Walkers/Bike Riders - students cannot arrive at school any earlier than 8:30 a.m.

Park bikes in racks and proceed to your class lines on the playgrounds and social distance six feet apart at the front entrance until it is time to enter the building.

Meal Information

- Monday - Thursday: Hot breakfast and lunch will be served to students in their classrooms in disposable containers.
- Group A (Monday/Wednesday) will take home their sack lunch meals for remote learning days on Mondays and Wednesdays.
- Group B (Tuesday/Thursday) will take home their sack lunch meals for their remote learning days on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- 100% Remote learners will pick up their meals for the week on Mondays.
- Lunch will not be provided on Fridays.
- Typical breakfast and lunch fees apply.

Health & Safety Protocols

Social Distancing and Masks

- Students and staff will maintain social distance of six feet from one another as best as possible. Students and staff will be required to wear masks covering the nose and mouth.
- Short outside mask breaks will be provided during the day while maintaining more than six feet distance.
- Face shields may be worn by students and staff if they choose, but a face mask will still be required under the face shield.
- Parents should contact their building principal if their child has a medical condition that may prevent them from wearing a face mask.

Temperature & Symptoms Checks

All students will have their temperature taken upon arrival at school or prior to entering the bus at their bus stop. Parents of PreK-2nd grade students must accompany students to the bus stop and stay with them until they get on the bus in case a fever is noted and the student must stay home that day. Students who demonstrate a temperature over 100.4° will not be allowed to enter the bus or enter the school building. Students who show symptoms or have a temperature over 100.4° while at school will be sent to the office and parents will immediately be contacted.

Signs & Symptoms

Parents are responsible for keeping their child(ren) home if they are showing any signs or symptoms of COVID-19, which include but are not limited to:

- Fever over 100.4°
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Chills, fatigue
- Muscle & body aches
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Nausea
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting

Students with signs or symptoms of COVID-19 during the school day will be sent to an isolated health room and parents will be contacted.

School Sanitation

Classrooms will be provided with hand sanitizer and equipment to clean furniture, door handles, and high touch areas. Custodial staff will routinely disinfect bathrooms and other high traffic areas in addition to classrooms. Cleaning will include applying disinfectant using an electrostatic spray.

Logistics

In this section, we will first focus on the impacts your student can expect when coming to school. We will then discuss other procedural items we feel are important for you to know but may not directly impact your student each day.

- The first day of school has been moved to Monday, August 24th.
- Masks **MUST** be worn in the building at all times unless eating lunch or during an outside “mask break”.
- Instruction will be supported through Google Classroom and Seesaw.
- Students will be encouraged to bring water bottles, as all water fountains will be shut off.
- Social distancing, as possible, will be adhered to in all classrooms. This means no traditional group work.
- Locker rooms will not be accessible during the school day. Please have your students dress comfortably and appropriately for in-person PE instruction.
- The look and feel of classes such as PE, band, and choir will be significantly different.

Health and Wellness

What you can expect from the district and school regarding Health Services

- We will be implementing three additional Virtual Classroom preparation days to provide training on health and hygiene to all staff prior to students reporting to school. Teachers will share this information with students as well.
- All students **MUST** wear masks for in-person schooling except for instances where:
 - Students are outside and can social distance.
 - Students are eating or drinking and are social-distanced.
 - Special considerations will be made for students with developmental delays or students with autism.
- Social Distancing will be adhered to whenever possible. It is to be noted that in some instances students will have less than six feet between them. Social distancing will be enforced as best as possible but cannot be guaranteed all the time. Also, social distancing will not be possible on a school bus.
- Students will be directed to not share supplies.
- Locker rooms will not be available for students during the traditional school day.
- Signage will be posted throughout all buildings to help remind students of appropriate social distancing and hygienic behavior.
- The district will be in continuous contact with the LaSalle County Health Department for guidance and reporting purposes.

What we expect from our families regarding Health Services

- Self-monitoring will be implemented whenever possible.
- Adherence to all current rules regarding physicals, vaccinations, and exclusions will still be enforced.

- Parents are proactive and thorough in their at-home screening and reporting of symptoms to the school.
- Promotion of behaviors listed above and a personal effort to limit unnecessary exposure to the virus is expected.
- An understanding of the necessity of following the exclusion timelines provided below and supporting district decisions in regards to this cumbersome guidance is requested.

Quarantine periods for illness

If someone in the school community shows symptoms for COVID-19, what will be the next required steps?

- Those individuals will be quarantined based on the most recent Illinois Department of Public Health guidelines and guidance from the LaSalle County Health Department.

If someone in the school community tests positive for COVID-19, what will be the next required steps?

- The LaSalle County Health Department will be contacted, and we will take their direction regarding those who may have been exposed.
- The school community will be notified of the positive test via email or text maintaining all laws and regulations regarding student and/or staff privacy.

Mental Health and Wellness

What you can expect from the district and school regarding Mental Health and Wellness

- We will provide access to school social workers and support for both Blended Learning and Virtual Classroom students.
- We will continue to serve as a liaison between our students and outside agencies and services with whom we partner.
- We will make an intentional effort at all levels to place a higher priority on student mental and social-emotional health, knowing that many students experienced some form of stress through the COVID-19 shutdown.

What we expect from our families regarding Mental Health and Wellness

- Continued communication with the school if you are noticing issues or concerns regarding your student.

Facility and Student Safety

What you can expect from the district and school regarding Facilities and Student Safety

- The facilities will be deep cleaned on Fridays to ensure district materials have been sanitized prior to the students' return to school on Mondays.
- Classrooms will be sanitized at the end of each day utilizing an electrostatic sprayer.
- Additional sanitation and cleaning products will be procured.
- Spray bottles of antibacterial spray will be available in each classroom.
- Isolation health rooms will be created at each school for symptomatic students.

- Space will be repurposed to attempt to ensure appropriate distancing and to not exceed capacity limits.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be conveniently located throughout the buildings, and hand sanitizer will be available in each classroom.
- Locker rooms will be unavailable during the school day.

What we expect from our families regarding Facilities and Student Safety

- Any community event taking place in our buildings will adhere to the same rules established throughout this document including wearing masks, health screenings, and social distancing, as possible.

Food and Nutrition Services

What you can expect from the district and school regarding Food and Nutrition Services

- More frequent handwashing and sanitization will take place.
- Hot meals will be distributed to students in sealed, disposable containers.
- Students will eat in the classroom, outside, or other spaces in order to meet social distancing protocols.

What we expect from our families regarding Food and Nutrition Services

- Support and reinforce that students are not to share lunch items.
- Use the electronic deposit system for payment through TeacherEase whenever possible.

Transportation

What you can expect from the district and school regarding Transportation

- Social distancing may not be possible on a crowded bus, but we will not exceed 50 total people on any bus to help limit close proximity contact per current guidelines.
- More frequent sanitization and use of an electrostatic sprayer to disinfect the bus between rides will be enforced.
- A district employee will ride the bus and screen students (take their temperature) before entering the bus.
 - If a student is not allowed to enter the bus, an immediate phone call will be placed to the student's parents.
 - Parents of PreK-2nd grade students must accompany students to the bus stop and stay with them until they get on the bus in case a fever is noted and the student must stay home that day.
- Masks **must** be worn on the bus at all times.
- Hand sanitizer will be available on the bus.

What we expect from our families regarding Transportation

- Do not send students to the bus stop if you know they are symptomatic in any way.
- Expect delays in arrival times as we will need to stagger exits from the bus.

Technology

What you can expect from the district and school regarding Technology

- All students will be provided with a device if they do not have an available device at home.
 - Virtual Classroom students will be expected to complete work on their issued ChromeBook and/or IPAD.
 - To prevent multiple people handling the same device, in-person students will be assigned their own device. Students will be expected to manage and ensure the device is charged if brought home.

What we expect from our families regarding Technology

- Support and reinforce appropriate use of technology with your students.
- Proactively communicate any and all issues including issues with internet connectivity.
- Adhere to the district Acceptable Use Policy.
- Please ensure student responsibility with handling and charging the device.

Calendar Change

- ISBE's guidance allows for five additional days to plan for the reopening of schools. We plan to add three days of preparation to the beginning of the calendar year and two days to be determined at a later date. The alterations to the calendar will be as follows:
 - August 17th and 18th will remain as normally scheduled Teacher Institute Days.
 - August 19th - 21st will be Virtual Classroom Teacher Planning Days.
 - Future Virtual Classroom Planning Days will be scheduled at a later date depending on if we return to full remote learning.

Extracurricular Activities

- All decisions for IESA participation will be governed by the guidance they have provided. Currently, they have worked to ensure that their rules are aligned with the guidance provided by ISBE and IDPH.
- All non-IESA extracurricular activities will be governed by the guidance provided by ISBE.
- There is no clear guidance on whether or not all fall sports will occur at this time.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- **Who has been consulted in the creation of the reopening plan?**
 - Parents and staff have been surveyed multiple times to help inform the creation of the plan.
 - A district committee and subcommittees including 21 staff members have been actively involved since early July.
 - Attorneys have and continue to review the plan for any legal issues.
 - The Board of Education has been updated on the committee's plans and recommendations.
- **Did the district adhere to the guidance as provided by the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Department of Public Health in the creation of the plan?**
 - Yes, we adhered to all guidance provided.
- **Are there any current COVID-19 testing protocols for students or staff?**
 - No, at this time there are no testing protocols.
- **Can I decorate my mask or have a creative mask or face shield?**
 - Yes, there are no current regulations regarding what a mask looks like as long as it covers the mouth and nose. Offensive or non-school appropriate messaging will not be acceptable. Personal face coverings must be two-ply masks.
- **If someone in the school community tests positive for COVID-19, what will be the next required steps?**
 - The LaSalle County Health Department will be contacted, and we will take their direction regarding those who may have been exposed.
 - The school community will be notified of the positive test via email or text maintaining all laws and regulations regarding student and/or staff privacy.
- **What will the protocol be for an asymptomatic student with a confirmed positive COVID-19 result in their household?**
 - The district will consult with the LaSalle County Health Department for guidance.
- **Will students and staff members be required to wear masks?**
 - Yes, masks will be required for all students and staff.
- **Will schools have to provide student masks?**
 - No, but we will have extra masks available to support a student who forgets, loses, or damages their mask.
- **Will schools have any authority to not allow students into school without a mask?**
 - Students who do not comply with wearing a mask will be placed into our Remote Learning program.

- Special considerations will be made for students with developmental delays or students with autism.
- **Do attendance/truancy policies need to be modified for students who are covid positive and in isolation at home/hospital for extended periods?**
 - The district has discretion in how they enforce and report truancy issues. COVID-19 related absences will not trigger a truancy referral.
- **Will the school be responsible for providing remote instruction if they are voluntarily kept home?**
 - The current intent of the district is to provide instruction for those students who choose to stay at home.
- **What will school districts' responsibilities be for providing internet access and devices?**
 - Students who need a device will be provided one. Internet access will not be provided for students; however, the district will work with those who do not have reliable internet.
- **Will isolation rooms be needed in nursing offices for students or staff with fevers?**
 - Yes, we have identified spaces in each building to serve as isolation areas for students or staff with COVID-19 or Influenza symptoms.
- **As the fall brings illnesses such as flu, respiratory infections, and whooping cough, will modifications be required to medical exclusion policies?**
 - At this point there are no changes to state-level exclusion policies.
- **How do we socially distance on our buses?**
 - The bus limit is 50 riders. Social distancing **cannot** be guaranteed with that level of capacity.
- **What will be the cleaning protocols for buses? How frequently will this need to occur?**
 - Buses will be cleaned with a disinfecting electrostatic sprayer daily and between routes.
- **Will attendance be taken daily for Virtual Classroom?**
 - Yes, attendance will be taken each day.

- **Can we hold music classes inside given what we know?**
 - Music, Choir, and Band will look substantially different this year. We are still working on modifying the curriculum in order to accommodate the guidelines published by ISBE and the IDPH.
- **Will students be able to change for PE?**
 - At this point, we will not be accessing locker rooms during the school day, therefore students will not be changing for PE.
- **Can students get mask breaks during the day?**
 - Yes, teachers will schedule periodic outdoor mask breaks with social distancing, weather permitting.
- **How will the implementation of Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) for special education students be met in a virtual, hybrid, or partial-day academic program?**
 - We will find a way to meet the needs of all students with an IEP. Students with an IEP who opt for Virtual Classroom should reconvene a meeting to address how the needs can be best met.
- **Will students be able to eat in the cafeteria?**
 - No, all students will eat breakfast and lunch in their classrooms at their desk or outside if weather permits.
- **How will we socially distance during passing periods (in hallways)?**
 - We will try to minimize group movement in the hallways. Individual traffic flow plans will be created and supervised at each building.
- **Will guest speakers, parents, etc. be allowed in the buildings?**
 - At this point only necessary staff and personnel will be admitted into our buildings. This includes not hosting events such as Parent Teacher Conferences, Open House, etc. These events will be replaced with virtual or digital supplements.
- **What professional development needs will school districts have to assist their teachers' enhancement of virtual instructional practices?**
 - The district will be taking advantage of the five Virtual Classroom planning days in order to provide all necessary support to teachers to ensure the greatest probability of success.
- **How will school districts assess, grade, and provide feedback to students?**
 - The traditional grading system will be used for all academic courses to start the 2020-2021 school year. Elective (expo) courses will move to a pass/fail grading system.