



DELPHI COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION

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Ann-Marie Circle, Superintendent
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Dear Delphi Community Parents, Guardians and Staff,

During the 2020-2021 school year, our students, parents, community and staff did a fantastic job of maneuvering through the ups and downs of COVID. We realize that fluctuating in and out of school, adjusting to virtual and eLearning, and suffering through the unknowns of COVID caused a lot of stress for families, students, and staff alike. We appreciate all the flexibility and patience everyone demonstrated last school year. While we will never be completely rid of COVID, it is our hope that we can learn how to manage it in the school setting during the upcoming school year. We fully expect to continue with in-person instruction for the 2021-2022 school year.

The first day of school for students will be Thursday, August 12, 2021. Online registration will open on July 16. For parents and guardians who do not have access to the internet, we will have on-campus registration on Wednesday, July 28 from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. at either Delphi Community Elementary School or Delphi Community Middle School cafeteria. It is important that you register your child for school even if there are no changes to your contact information.

The tentative 2021-2022 Back to School Plan is attached to this email. As we continue to plan for the upcoming school year, please know that our goal is to provide the safest and most effective instructional setting within the guidelines and mandates from the local and county health department, the governor's order, the CDC, and the Department of Education. For the sake of you, our stakeholders, we feel it is important to begin communication with you now. However, we do expect that more information will be coming from all the entities previously mentioned; thus, our plans are subject to change as new guidance is given.

Another important change to next school year is our implementation of a school board approved delayed start on every Wednesday for professional development time. On Wednesdays, the school day will start ONE hour later for every building in the corporation. In other words, rather than the 8:00 a.m. start time, school will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesdays. If we happen to have a two hour delay due to weather on a Wednesday, school will start at the traditional two hour delay time of 10:00 a.m. We will also have three built-in professional development eLearning days as noted on the attached calendar: one in September, one in February, and one in April.

We realize this may cause difficulties for families, but our data demonstrates that we have suffered significant learning losses at all grade levels. It is imperative that we have consistent professional development time for our DCSC staff. Professional development time is used to help our staff collaborate and learn best practices that will help us provide your child with an optimal education. Staff will spend time discussing instructional practices, culture building, PreK - 12 curriculum alignment, strategies to enhance social-emotional learning and improve academic development to help mitigate learning loss. Staff will also learn how to implement interventions and identify individual remediation plans for students, as well as have time to complete state-mandated trainings and procedures. Overall, it is time for our corporation to unite with

common goals and visions for our students to successfully develop into productive citizens upon graduation.

Finally, open communication will be paramount in successfully creating an inclusive environment and a successful school corporation that cultivates learning. With that said, please feel free to make an appointment to come in and discuss any questions or concerns. A conversation about what is going well is also welcomed. If you would like to make an appointment, contact Mrs. Beamer via email at beamerk@delphi.k12.in.us.

In closing, we appreciate all that each of you do daily to partner with us in your child's education. Thank you for entrusting us with your child's educational future. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Ann-Marie Circle
Superintendent of Delphi Community School Corporation

Delphi Community School Corporation



2021-2022 Back To School Plan

Return to School Q&A

Disclaimer: This plan can change at any time due to mandates/directives from the Governor Holcomb, state and local board of health, CDC, and the Department of Education.

2021-2022 School Calendar

Q1: Will Delphi Community School Corporation begin as scheduled on Thursday, August 12th?

A1: Yes, students will return to school as planned on Thursday, August 12, 2021.

Q2: Are there currently plans to adjust the calendar to accommodate potential COVID-19 case spikes?

A2: Our plan is to maintain the normal calendar throughout the school year. We strongly believe in the value of regular in-person classroom instruction. We will continue to provide in-person instruction unless it becomes unsafe to do so.

Q3: Are there any changes to the calendar that was previously posted?

A3: Students will start school on Thursday, August 12th as planned, but we do have some changes to the calendar this school year. Three eLearning professional development days have been added for mandated training. Additionally, the school board approved a delayed start on Wednesdays for professional development to mitigate the learning loss that has developed due to the impact of COVID-19. Every Wednesday school will begin one hour later than normal.

Virtual Learning Option

Q1: Will there be a virtual option available for students whose family does not feel comfortable sending their students to school?

A1: Respectfully, no. We firmly believe that students learn best by receiving in-person instruction. Additionally, DCSC does not have the resources to dedicate instructors for virtual school.

Day-to-day Operations

Q1: What is the new mask expectation for Delphi students?

A1: According to the governor's order, the mask mandate expired on June 30th. While inside our DCSC facility, wearing masks is optional and will be left to the discretion of the individual and their family.

Per current CDC federal order, masks are still required to be worn on public transportation. Therefore, masks will be required on school buses.

Q2: What type of face covering is acceptable under the governor's order?

A2: A face covering means a cloth which covers the nose and mouth and is secured to the head with ties, straps, or loops over the ears or is simply wrapped around the lower face (gaiter). A face shield is a mask, typically made of clear plastic, which covers the nose and mouth. All of these are appropriate for school.

Q3: What if my student has a medical situation that does not allow him or her to wear a mask for extended periods of time?

A3: Please contact your student's building level school nurse to work out a plan to best support the needs of your student. Appropriate accommodations will be available for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety protocols.

Q4: Will parents and other guests be allowed in the school buildings?

A4: During the 20-21 school year, parents and guests had limited access to our school buildings. DCSC will require parents and guests to remain outside the school building unless an appointment has been made ahead of time with the building principals. Any visitor may be asked to wear a mask and follow any precautions necessary.

Q5: Will recess time still be provided at the elementary level?

A5: Yes, elementary students will still receive a daily recess time as the weather allows. We value the time that students will be able to spend outside as a part of their normal school day. Playground equipment and portable equipment will be cleaned as necessary.

Q6: Will time be provided to allow students to wash their hands throughout the school day?

A6: Students will have time available throughout each day to wash their hands in addition to hand sanitizer stations that will be available in multiple locations throughout all schools. These options will be explained and promoted to the students.

Q7: What steps will be taken each day in regard to the cleanliness of the building?

A7: Each evening the building will be cleaned by our custodial team in preparation for the next school day. In addition to the regular, thorough cleaning that takes place, an emphasis will be placed on all common surfaces and frequent touch points.

Q8: Will support continue to be provided for students during the 21-22 school year?

A8: Absolutely! Like any school year, our teachers and counselors are prepared to support all students as necessary.

Q9: Will students be able to use their lockers this school year?

A9: Yes, students will be able to use their lockers this school year. This does mean that bags and backpacks must be placed in their lockers and not carried throughout the school day.

Q10: Will students be restricted during hallway passing periods this school year?

A10: No, students will have normal passing periods.

Classroom Procedures

Q1: What modifications will be made in the classrooms to support social distancing?

A1: For 21-22, students will be separated as much as possible depending on the size of the classroom.

School Transportation

Q1: Will school transportation be provided for the 2021-22 school year?

A1: Yes, regular school bus transportation will be provided as normal. Of all the areas within a school, social distancing is the hardest to achieve on a school bus. School buses will be sanitized after each route. Seats will be assigned for all students that ride a bus. Currently, per the CDC, all students are required to wear a mask on the school bus.

Q2: Will there be any route restrictions for students?

A2: Yes, students will be limited to only one AM and one PM bus route in the district. This means that students will not be able to alternate different bus routes depending on the day of the week (i.e. one day

mom's house, one day grandma's house, etc.). This is in an effort to maintain appropriate seating charts on each bus.

Q3: Will friends of bus riders be able to ride home with a student on a particular night?

A3: No, in order to maintain predictable seating charts on the bus, only regular bus riders will be able to ride the bus on a daily basis. Friends going home with a student will need to arrange for alternative transportation.

Cafeteria Procedures

Q1: What changes will be made in the cafeteria?

A1: Breakfast and lunch will be served each day with some potential modifications to ensure the safety of all students and staff. Some additional modifications were made to seating arrangements and lunch times to allow for increased separation of students in our cafeterias during these times during the 20-21 school year. Delphi Community School Corporation will reduce the modifications for the 21-22 school year and return to prior year lunch schedules as safely as possible.

Q2: Will students be allowed to drink from water fountains?

A2: The ability to drink from water fountains will be determined in July per CDC guidelines for the 21-22 school year. Currently, multiple touchless bottle filling stations are available in each building for student use. Students are allowed to bring in a clear, plastic reusable water bottle with them to school. For those students that are not able to bring a water bottle, water will be available for purchase during breakfast and lunch in each school cafeteria.

Student Illnesses

Q1: Will student and staff temperatures be screened on a daily basis?

A1: It is not feasible to screen students and staff every day. Families are strongly encouraged to self-screen at home prior to coming to school. The daily screening tool is available here: [CDC Symptoms Checker](#). Infrared temperature scanners will be used as needed for specific students.

Q2: What are the symptoms that would impact a student being excluded from attending school?

A2: A fever of 100.4 or higher, cough, shortness of breath, chills, headache, sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell. These symptoms are very similar to a common cold, so we encourage families to consult a medical professional if you have any questions about your student. Students must be excluded from school if they test positive for COVID-19 or exhibit one or more of the symptoms of COVID-19 based on CDC guidance that is not otherwise explained. If you have additional concerns about whether your child should come to school, please contact the school nurse within your child's school building.

Q3: When can a student return to school after being excluded for an illness?

A3: Students may return if they satisfy the recommendations of the CDC. Currently those guidelines are stated as follows:

Asymptomatic close contact students may return to school after 7 days of quarantine after receiving a negative polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test taken on day 5, 6, or 7, or a negative rapid test taken on day 8. As has been the case for a while, quarantine could also end after day 10 without testing and if no symptoms have been reported during daily monitoring. With either option, the individual can only

discontinue quarantine if the following criteria are met:

- No evidence of COVID-19 has been observed during daily symptom monitoring during the entirety of the quarantine.
- Daily symptom monitoring continues through quarantine Day 14.
- The sign of the first symptoms would require the individual to self-isolate and follow established protocols

Students who test positive will be required to remain out of school for 10 days from the day they took the test or 10 days after testing positive for asymptomatic students with no exceptions.

Q4: If a student is experiencing symptoms, what are the considerations for testing?

A4: A student experiencing symptoms may receive a rapid test either at school (if available) or through a medical facility. If the result of the test is positive, the student should immediately isolate and begin the 10-day quarantine away from school and all others. If the result of the rapid test is negative, the student cannot return to school until symptom free for 24 hours. However, if symptoms persist then it may be required a student follow up with their physician to determine if further testing is needed, including a PCR.

Q5: What information will be requested when a student has to miss school for any illness?

A5: As a part of our plan, families will be asked to provide information about the reason for their student's absence from school including if any of the COVID-19 symptoms are present. Providing this information as it is requested will only help to support the overall health of our school buildings.

Q6: What happens if a student shows potential symptoms of COVID-19 during the school day?

A6: Although our healthcare staff is properly trained to provide care to students, they are not doctors who will diagnose COVID-19 or any other health issue. If a student's symptoms are consistent with those listed above, the student will be placed in a separate room and monitored until picked up. If the student has a fever, for any reason, the student should not return to school until fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medications. Students and families are encouraged to seek medical attention for further evaluation and instructions.

Q7: What steps will the school take if a case of COVID-19 has been confirmed for a student or a staff member?

A7: If a significant exposure happens at school, the school district will manage any necessary contact tracing. The decision to close a classroom or the whole school will be made in conjunction with the local and state health departments. DCSC will make every effort to conduct school in-person for the 21-22 school year.

Q8: If my student is out of school for quarantine or testing positive, how does this impact their attendance?

A8: If a student has a positive test result, was sent home by school officials for quarantining, or was sent home by the school nurse, the days of absence will be exempt and will not count against the student.

Q9: If my student is out of school for quarantine or testing positive, how does this impact their school assignments and coursework?

A9: Students will be able to access their coursework on Google Classroom.

School Administered BinaxNOW (Rapid) Tests

QI: Will Delphi be administering the rapid tests provided by the state to students and staff?

A1: Delphi may administer rapid tests to students and staff in specific instances when rapid test kits are available. It is important to note that NO test will be given to any students without full parent permission provided first. Results will be available within 15 minutes. All results will be documented and shared with parents.

Vaccine Information

QI: Where can I find information about vaccine sites and eligibility?

A1: Visit the Indiana State Department of Health Website dedicated to vaccines at:

<https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/vaccine/index.htm>. Anyone age 12 and older may now schedule a COVID-19 vaccination appointment. [Click here](#) to register or call (866-211-9966) if you do not have access to a computer or need assistance. Walk-in appointments are also accepted at most vaccination sites. Please note that anyone younger than 18 must receive the Pfizer vaccine. It is the only vaccine to receive Emergency Use Authorization from the FDA for that age group. Proof of age will be required at the time of vaccination.