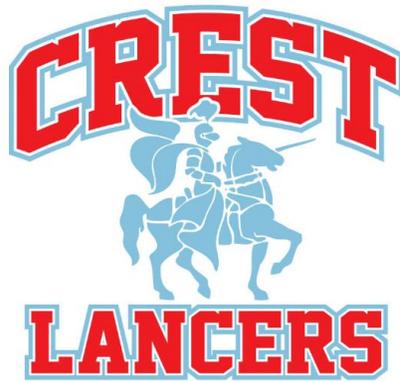


**Crest USD 479
SCHOOL REOPENING
2020-21**



**August 3, 2020
Crest USD 479
Board of Education**

August 3, 2020

Dear USD #479 Parents and Students:

We have been working on plans and procedures for the 2020-21 school year. Many of the following items came as recommendations and guidance from the federal, state and local levels. The safety precautions and requirements we are obligated to follow will change the school environment for the coming year.

Our main focus is on student and staff safety as we go through this pandemic period. As we prepare for the school year, I want to provide you with a glimpse of how learning will look different for USD #479 during the 2020-21 school year:

Academic Schedule

The goal of USD #479 is to offer two types of programs for students during the coming year. The 1) Traditional Schedule: classes will take place on campus. 2) Remote Learning Environment: classes outside the school facilities, to assist our students and families who may be dealing with health issues and other concerns. Those who would prefer their student be in the remote or online program for 2020-21 should contact school administration. If school facility usage has to be modified based on occupancy measures set forth by **state or county guidelines we will transition to a hybrid setting so that we can keep the doors open as much as possible for face to face instruction.** If the building is shut down during any part of the coming year for the COVID-19 pandemic, all students will move to distance learning (remote learning environment) for a specific period of time.

Transportation

The issue of safe transportation is probably one of the biggest concerns we have as a school district. **Students will undergo temperature checks upon entry to the bus.** Face masks are optional but not required. The district will implement temperature checks on bus routes as well as entry to the building. Routes may be modified to accommodate more flexibility. Buses will be full, so to ensure safety, we will institute seating arrangements where siblings (families) will sit next to each other on buses.

Food Service

An alternative breakfast and lunch schedule may be implemented in each building in order to comply with health and safety guidelines, where applicable.

Technology

The district has made significant purchases to allow for 1 to 1 technology for all K-12 settings. USD #479 has purchased additional technology to allow students to revert to more remote learning throughout the year, if necessary.

Athletics

At the present time, the fall activity season (cross country, volleyball, football, dance, cheerleading, etc.) will begin as scheduled. Questions on spectators at contests, snack bars and other safety measures will be distributed when more guidance is provided by local and state

entities.

Safety Concerns

USD 479's number one goal is student and staff safety. Temperature checks will take place each morning as students and staff enter the school facilities. Any students with a temperature greater than 100.4 will be immediately sent home. Students who develop symptoms or are exposed to COVID-19 should immediately communicate with their health care provider, the county health department, and their school to initiate quarantine procedures.

- Face masks are optional but not required in the facilities as long as the school building stays within a low community spread condition. Masks may be required at some point as directed by the health department.
- All facilities will be cleaned throughout the day based on CDC and guidance from the State Health Department.
- Parents and visitors are asked to call or email the school when needing assistance. We are limiting the number of outside individuals and visitors entering the school.
- It is recommended that ALL visitors allowed in school buildings wear a mask while in the building(s). Visitors are expected to check into the office for screening purposes.
- Water fountains will not be accessible, except for the bottle filling stations. We have purchased more bottle filling stations and will provide each student with a Crest Lancer water bottle at enrollment.
- The district will do its very best to social distance groups when possible
- Recess time may be staggered to allow smaller groups of children on the playgrounds. Field trips may be limited.
- The use of school facilities during the 2020-21 school year by outside organizations or groups will be limited.

I believe these changes in response to COVID-19 will enable us to provide the very best education and one that is safe and rewarding for each and every Crest student. The changes we have outlined above are how we will begin the school year, but it is our great hope that these restrictions will not be permanent. Nobody wants to start school in this way. However, we DO want to start school and are very eager to work with our students that we have sorely missed. These options are the best options that we currently have. We eagerly await the day when our facility will function in the pre COVID manner.

More information will be coming in the weeks ahead as we begin the new school year on Friday, August 21.

If you have any questions, please contact your building administrator.

Sincerely,

Shane Walter
Crest USD 479
Superintendent of Schools

USD #479 -- School Reopening **August 2020**

Questions & Answers

Topics:

General Back to School Information

Options for Learning in 2020-2021

Student Support

Face Coverings and Safety

Safety Transportation

The School Day

GENERAL BACK TO SCHOOL INFORMATION

PLEASE NOTE: *The safety precautions and requirements we are obligated to follow will modify the school environment at all levels for the coming year. This document will update as new information becomes available.*

What is the first day of school for students?

The first day of school is Friday, August 21, 2020.

Arrival Time for Students:

Building doors will open at: 7:40 a.m.

The starting and dismissal times for all schools are as follows:

Classes Begin at: 7:55 a.m. Elementary - 8:00 a.m. CJSHS

Student Dismissal: 3:35 p.m. Elementary 3:40 p.m. CJSHS

- *On Wednesdays the Elementary release time will be 3:05 p.m.*
- *On Wednesdays the Junior High / High School release time will be 3:10 p.m.*

If our family travels in August, will my child be able to return to school immediately or must he/she quarantine for 14 days?

Students and staff members may be asked to answer screening questions. If the answers to all questions are No, then the student may attend school that day. The questions are:

- *Have you had an unexplained cough, difficulty breathing, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell?*
- *Have you been in close contact with an infected person (COVID-19) within the previous 14 days?*
- *Have you had a fever of 100.4 or higher within the last 72 hours?*

- *NOTE: If you have traveled to a state which is designated by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment as a no travel state, you will be required to quarantine for 14 days or as recommended by local health officials.*

OPTIONS FOR LEARNING IN 2020-2021

How will you fill any gaps in learning for my child from the previous school year?

USD #479 teachers develop lessons and units that are aligned to the Kansas State Standards. These Standards describe what students must know and be able to do in each academic content area. Teachers will be communicating with teachers from the previous grade level to determine key skills and learning targets that were not taught in the spring of 2020. USD #479 teachers will review competency based learning guidance from the state department to help eliminate gaps and develop plans to identify individual student learning needs.

How will teachers assess student skills?

Teachers will utilize benchmark assessment means to identify student strengths. We will then utilize research based practices / programs to increase student growth.

What are my child's options for learning in 2020-2021?

The goal of USD #479 is to offer two types of programs for students during the coming year. The 1) Traditional Schedule: classes will take place on campus. 2) Remote Learning Environment: classes remotely delivered and outside the school facilities, to assist our students and families who may be dealing with health issues or concerns with returning to a physical brick and mortar setting. Those who would prefer their student be in a remote learning setting for 2020-21 should contact their school's principal. In the case school facilities have to be shut down during any part of the coming year for the COVID-19 pandemic, the district is working on ways to provide a hybrid setting so that the building can stay open. In the instance we can not utilize the building in a modified fashion, we will move to distance learning (remote learning / online setting) for a specific period of time.

What will remote learning look like?

Remote students will address the same key skills and concepts in a virtual setting as the students enrolled in a traditional classroom. Licensed USD #479 teachers will teach students. Remote students will receive access to the same special services as students attending on-site. This includes access to counseling services, access to SEK mental health supports, and all social emotional learning opportunities. KSHSAA guidelines in regards to remote learning must be followed.

Remote classes may utilize web-based curriculum, Acellus, online assessments, ZOOM live streaming technology, and possible video archived instruction. Students will be expected to participate in the remote online environment daily; however, schedules may be fluid to meet the needs of students. Attendance and hours will be logged daily. Families who opt for remote learning for their child(ren) will be provided with a device for home use. The district has purchased hot spots to help families that pursue remote learning. The district will need to have availability of hotspots in the case that we ALL must transition to a remote setting.

What instruction/assistance will the district offer parents who opt for remote learning?

Teachers of record will be assigned to students to assist them with their learning needs through the academic year. Assistance will be provided to parents to help them with their child's at home learning.

- **Parents and students must understand that remote learning will not look anything like the Continuous Learning scenario that took place in the spring. Strict attendance guidelines must be met and seat time will need to mirror that of our traditional brick and mortar classroom. Teachers will require daily contact with students and attendance logs must be filled out to maintain compliance with the district and state.**

Will paper packets still be available for remote learners?

No. Paper packets will be available for students with specific Individualized Education Plan (IEP) accommodations or as approved by the building principal. We must remember that learners must maintain similar hours to the face-to-face instruction delivered on-site.

Is there a cost associated with remote learning?

No. There is no cost associated with remote learning. Crest will provide each family with a device such as a Chromebook, online resources, a licensed teacher, and resources aligned to the Kansas Academic Standards. Families who opt for remote learning should plan to have Wi-Fi available. Please contact the district if this is an issue. Many family situations may have changed since the spring semester.

What about technology needs?

Devices will be available for students to check out from Crest. Families will need Wi-Fi access that allows for multiple users.

What about Wi-Fi access?

The district will provide a hotspot as long as the supplies are available. Please note that some areas could potentially be difficult to access for our vendors.

Will grading remain the same?

Student work shall be graded according to Crest USD 479 policy. Grade-level standards shall be taught and assessed by the student's teacher. The grading policy will be followed for each learning environment.

STUDENT SUPPORT

How will the district accommodate students with special needs? Students with weakened immune systems?

Students with special needs or weakened immune systems will be accommodated through both traditional and remote instruction. If parents have concerns about their child, who may be at high-risk because of COVID-19, may explore the remote learning option to allow their child to continue their education offsite.

How will the Social Emotional Learning (SEL) needs of our students be addressed?

Southeast Kansas Mental Health may be available to assist families with their needs. Counselors will be available to support students, families, and teachers.

How will the district serve students who have special needs (Special Education)?

In the event of a school closure, students will participate in live instruction with scheduled ZOOM video conferencing sessions. The ANW Special Services Cooperative will work with all families to meet the needs of their students. More information will be available through the special education teacher.

FACE COVERINGS AND SAFETY

Will we be required to wear face coverings?

At this time, masks or face coverings are optional not required. This option could change depending on the level of spread in the community and school or as ordered by state and/or local health officials or by the local or state school boards. Face masks or covering may be required in some learning environments as deemed necessary. All facilities will be cleaned throughout the day. We will utilize the safest means possible while reaching our sanitation goals. Most elementary classrooms are equipped with sinks for handwashing. Hand sanitizing stations are available in each classroom.

Do parents/guardians supply masks for students or will the district supply one?

Crest USD 479 will have facemasks available for students. We recommend that families provide their own. By supplying your own, children and parents have the opportunity to select a mask that best suits the students needs. The district is working to maintain a supply for students and staff.

The best avenue for success this school year is a strong partnership between parents, students, and the school community. DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL WHEN THEY ARE ILL!!! Attached documents will provide the most up to date resources for parents to adhere to the most important pillar of keeping our school open this year.

Will students and adults be screened daily for COVID-19?

Yes. Temperature checks will take place each morning as students and staff enter any and all school facilities. Any student or staff member with a temperature greater than 100.4 will be immediately sent home.

We ask all students and staff to self-screen by answering the following screening questions each day prior to reporting to school. The questions are:

- *Have you had an unexplained cough, difficulty breathing, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell?*
- *Have you been in close contact with an infected person (COVID-19) within the previous 14 days?*
- *Have you had a fever of 100.4 or higher within the last 72 hours?*

If a student arrives at school sick, what happens?

Students who are ill, not feeling well, or have a fever should be kept home from school.

If a child becomes ill while at school, the typical health protocols will be followed to ensure the safety of children and employees. School personnel shall contact a parent/guardian to request that they pick up their child from school.

How will hand washing be implemented for students?

Elementary students will have scheduled time to wash their hands throughout the day. Staff members will be encouraged to wash their hands every hour. Middle school and high school students will have scheduled hand washing breaks, and hand sanitizer will be provided in each classroom (elementary through high school) and various locations around the school.

What about cleaning and sanitizing? How will USD #479 provide a safe, clean environment?

The Crest custodial department will follow recommended cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting guidelines for school facilities. Surfaces frequently touched by multiple

people will be cleaned and disinfected multiple times daily. The district has purchased touchless thermometers, electrostatic sanitation devices, a tile scrubber, and air purifiers for every classroom to maintain a safe learning environment.

Will USD Crest facilities be available for rent or use during the coming school year with the concerns over COVID-19?

No. Crest facilities will not be available for use or rent during the fall semester of the 2020-21 school year because of the COVID-19 pandemic. This restriction could be extended through the entire school year if applicable.

SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION

Will bus transportation be provided? Will students wear masks on buses?

Yes. Bus transportation will be provided to qualifying bus students attending on site instruction in each community. The issue of safe transportation is one of the biggest concerns we have as a school district. How to safely transport students and provide safety to our transportation personnel. We will also encourage siblings (families) to sit next to each other on buses.

- At enrollment, you will be asked if you require transportation for the upcoming school year. You are welcome to transport your child to and from school if it makes you feel more comfortable.

Will school personnel be allowed to travel to out of county trainings or workshops?

Most professional development opportunities have already transitioned to virtual formats. We expect that to be a recurring theme throughout the school year.

THE SCHOOL DAY

Will students still have the opportunity for activities such as PE, music, and library?

Yes, the district is developing plans for all students to experience these activities.

Will elementary students have recess?

Yes, the district is developing plans for student recess.

Will classrooms be arranged differently?

Teachers will be encouraged to clean out their classrooms and take home personal belongings to create as much space as possible in classrooms.

Will students attend every day? Or will an alternate schedule be utilized?

As of right now, Crest students will attend every academic calendar day. The attendance location may vary from traditional face-to-face instruction to hybrid instruction or to an all remote setting depending on requirements or pandemic regulations at that time. Alternative scheduling may be implemented, if needed, during the 2020-2021 school year.

What about extracurricular activities and sports in the fall?

Activities will follow the KSHSAA activity requirements for the fall, winter and spring seasons. Additional guidelines will be coming out prior to fall sports practices. USD 479 may enact additional restrictions or requirements based on local and state officials' recommendations as determined by local COVID-19 spread factors.

What about programs and large group gatherings?

These activities may be limited during the 2020-2021 school year. We must understand that events must maintain compliance with local and state health departments.

Where will students eat breakfast and lunch?

*For breakfast and lunch, an alternative schedule **may** be implemented according to building needs at the time. In case school facilities have to be shut down during the year for COVID-19 cases, meals will be delivered to students as it was done during the past spring.*

May visitors come for lunch?

At this time, no visitors are allowed to come for lunch at school.

May volunteers come to school to help?

At this time, we ask volunteers to wait from entering the school. We ask ALL visitors entering the Crest school buildings to wear a facemask or face covering

This will serve as a living document. It may be amended or changed by the BOE as needed.