



Academic Arts High School

Re-Opening Procedures 2020

60 Marie Ave E. Suite 220
West Saint Paul, MN 55118
651-457-7427

AAHS FAMILIES

We have been hard at work finalizing our re-opening procedures and we are very excited to welcome students and staff back to school! We have worked closely with area schools and our local health department to create a plan to best maintain the health and safety of our students and staff at AAHS, which is always our top priority.

Our mission remains the same - To maintain a safe & healthy environment, provide the highest quality of learning experience possible, and stay connected - not isolated! We are confident our plan meets our mission and provides the safest possible environment for our students and staff.

We are committed to minimizing the spread of COVID-19. Please note that this plan is based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Minnesota State Department of Health (MDH), Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) and the Dakota County Health Department and is subject to change.

Sincerely,

AAHS TPS Team

PLANNING DETAILS

We have four phases to our plan and will initiate each phase based on guidance from MDE and MDH. We will announce the beginning of each phase to allow for as much notice for our families as possible.

School will resume on September 8, 2020.

A Virtual Learning option will be available to students at all times throughout the year. Please see page three for more information regarding this option.

2020-2021 LEARNING ROADMAP



SCHOOL HOURS
8:30 AM - 3:05 PM

VIRTUAL FRIDAYS
Every Friday students will participate in virtual learning



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COVID-19 Prevention Procedures



SOCIAL DISTANCING

We will practice social distancing as much as possible. This may not be possible at all times due to the layout of our school. In classrooms, student seating will be spaced as far apart as possible throughout the day.



VISITORS

Unfortunately, AAHS must restrict all school visitors to our buildings to promote health and safety. We will be scheduling virtual meetings for all necessary meetings with staff and teachers.



MASKS

Masks will be required for students and staff, while in the building per Governor Walz's Executive Order. For example, masks will be required on vans, while entering and exiting the school building, during class, while picking up food in the cafeteria line, and during passing periods. Masks may be removed while students are eating. Students should plan to have two cloth masks as part of their back-to-school supplies. If you are unable to purchase two cloth masks, please contact your student's advisor and they will assist in providing masks. All students will receive one free cloth mask and three disposable masks from the Minnesota Department of Education. If your student has a medical condition that makes it difficult to wear a mask, please talk with your healthcare provider to discuss possible options and communicate this to Sam Kvilhaug.



HEALTH SCREENINGS

Face masks will be required for everyone who enters the school and in situations where students and staff are unable to socially distance.

Students will be evaluated for symptoms of illness upon arrival at school with a touch-free thermometer and symptom screening. If symptoms are present the student will be removed to a predetermined isolation area until picked up from school. Please identify someone to have as a backup for picking students up from school in case you are not available. If your child is presenting symptoms of COVID-19 or other illness, please contact your healthcare provider and do not send them to school. You will need to call the school to report the absence and the reason for the absence.



COMMONS & WATER FOUNTAINS

Students may have assigned seats in the cafeteria and will be spaced as far apart as possible. All students will be asked to wash hands prior to entering the cafeteria. All water fountains will be turned off and we will be using water bottle filling stations to provide students with access to water. All students will be allowed to bring their own water bottles to school each day but will also be expected to bring them home to clean daily.



CLEANING & DISINFECTING

Necessary hand-washing supplies such as soap and paper towels will be stocked and there will be access to hand sanitizer in common areas or locations where soap and water is not readily available.

In addition to the routine cleaning, we will be cleaning and disinfecting the schools throughout the day, including frequently touched surfaces such as door handles, handrails, tables and bathrooms, with EPA approved disinfectant for COVID-19. Disinfectants will be available to staff to use in classrooms as needed during the school day.



HEALTH CONCERNS

Asthma nebulizer treatments are considered high risk procedures by the CDC and will not be administered at school until further notice. Please contact your physician to make alternative plans for treating asthma symptoms this year. The school nurse can assist you if needed.

Daily medication or treatment that can be given outside of school hours, such as morning medications, will need to be given at home.

Building access is limited so drop off and pick up medication procedures will change and this will be communicated prior to the start of school.

If your child has a medical condition that puts them at high risk for severe illness related to COVID-19, please contact your physician for recommendations for school. Share this information with Sam Kvilhaug to plan appropriately for your child's needs.

VIRTUAL LEARNING OPTION

We realize that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused some parents to be uncomfortable sending their children back to school. We also understand that some students may be medically vulnerable or live with someone who is medically vulnerable, and parents may be uncomfortable sending children back to school for those reasons. For those individuals, a virtual learning option will be available.

Students will receive support from the teachers of the courses they are enrolled in and have the opportunity to schedule Zoom meetings with their teachers depending on the A/B schedule they are on to receive additional support. Families choosing this option will need to schedule a time to check out a Chromebook and the necessary supplies to complete their work from home.

Virtual Learning will be facilitated through Google Classroom and students will experience the same content as their peers attending school in-person. **When it is safe to move to Hybrid Learning, students MUST commit to either Hybrid OR Virtual Learning.** To manage staffing and scheduling, students must commit to in-person or virtual learning and will not be permitted to move back and forth during this commitment. Families choosing this option will be asked to complete a virtual learning agreement.

A NOTE ABOUT SURVEYS

There will be circumstances where we will be moving from one restrictive setting to a less restrictive setting (example: Stage 1 to Stage 2). However, our virtual option will remain available to families when moving from stage to stage. Please keep an eye on your inbox as we will be asking families to sign up for virtual learning via survey. If you have not responded to a survey by the deadline given, then we will automatically sign your student up to participate in the less restrictive setting.



SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 or BEING TESTED FOR COVID-19

According to the MDH guidance, students with symptoms of COVID-19 will be suspected to have COVID-19 until they are cleared by their healthcare provider or if a healthcare provider is not contacted, they will be suspected positive until the end of an isolation period as directed by the local health department.

It's very important to keep children who have symptoms of COVID-19 or are being tested for COVID-19 at home. Contact the school and report the absence and the reason for the absence. The school will work with you and help determine when your student can return. This is determined on a case by case basis at the direction of the health department.

POSITIVE COVID-19

It will be important for parents to communicate with school immediately if your child tests positive for COVID-19 even if they are not showing symptoms. They will need to remain home as determined by the health department. All cases of COVID-19, both suspected and tested, are to be reported to the Dakota County Health Department by the school. The health department will provide the school with steps to begin the process of cleaning and disinfecting the building. This may include closing a classroom or school for a period of time and shifting quickly to digital at home for students who are impacted. Many of our new procedures are designed to support contact tracing should a confirmed case occur. This will assist the health department with quickly identifying and contacting individuals who may have been exposed.

SELF QUARANTINE STUDENTS and FAMILIES

We will need parents to contact the school to let us know if your student has been asked to self-quarantine. This will allow us to follow potential cases as well as provide educational opportunities while your student is quarantined at home. Sibling and household members of students who are home due to COVID-19 symptoms or a COVID positive test, will be required to self-quarantine at home for 14 days as well.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Currently, the plan is to maintain the normal school calendar for the 2020-21 school year and meet the state required **1020 instructional hours**.

However, we must be as flexible as possible as we know how quickly the situation can change.

LUNCH

We will now be offering a vending option for lunch where students can purchase healthy meals. This service will be offered in Stages 3 and 4. Please reach out to Danyelle or Julie for more information.

STAY CONNECTED

Our main form of communication with families is through ParentSquare. If you haven't set up your account, please reach out to Sam Kvilhaug. You can also follow us on Facebook and Instagram @academicarts.



For additional comments, questions, or feedback, please email:

info@academicarts.org

Thank you for your flexibility and cooperation as we plan for a safe return to school. We are excited to welcome our students back to school!