



Aitkin High School
Independent School District #1
Aitkin Public Schools
306 2nd St NW
Aitkin, MN 56431
(218) 927-2115

PAUL KARELIS, High School Principal
JASON CLINE, K-12 Dean of Students
ALEX WHITE, Activities Director

September 3, 2020

To Students and Parents of AHS students,

It is a very exciting time of the year as we move closer to the opening day of the school. (Tuesday, September 8th) The administration and staff are looking forward to having students back in the building. We have received many questions as to what students will experience the first day of school. We will be opening our building to students at 7:20 a.m. only for those that need to be dropped off early. One big change for the high school is the secured entrance by the Northwest corner of the building, near the district administration office. Once school begins, at 8:20 a.m., all doors will be locked and the only way into the building will be through that secure entrance. **We are also asking parents to keep drop-offs for students during the school day to a minimum and do not bring lunch to the school for your child. If they are not eating the school lunch, they should bring their own lunch in the morning.**

Some other important information:

EARLY ARRIVALS: If students arrive at school before between 7:20 & 7:40, they will be asked to go to their locker, get their things and go to the commons area by the cafeteria until breakfast starts. Students are not to congregate near their lockers, in the halls or the commons/cafeteria before/during breakfast. They should maintain safe social distancing at all times.

BREAKFAST/LUNCH CARDS: This year, all students will get a card to be scanned at breakfast and lunch rather than entering their 4-digit lunch pin. Students who are eating breakfast on the first day of school should stop by the table in the cafeteria/commons area to pick up their card. All other cards will be distributed to students in their first hour classes. If a student does not receive a card, they should see Sheri in the principal's office. **THESE CARDS WILL BE REQUIRED IN ORDER FOR THE STUDENT TO GET A MEAL.** Students should leave the cards in their lockers at the end of the day so they don't forget them at home. The online payment for lunch accounts is now available through the Infinite Campus Parent Portal. More information can be found on the school web page: www.isd1.org under the District → Food Service menu.

BREAKFAST: The cafeteria will open for breakfast at 7:40. Students can eat in the cafeteria as long as they are finished by 7:55. Starting at 7:55, all students that are in the building should go to their first hour classroom and take their breakfast if they have not finished. Students arriving on buses should go straight to their locker and then to the cafeteria if they are eating breakfast and then to their classroom with their breakfast. This is to reduce the number of students in the cafeteria and halls.

MASKS: All staff and students will be expected to wear masks or protective wear while at school or riding a bus. We feel that it is very important to protect everyone in the building and on the buses.

BETWEEN CLASSES: As the students change from one class to the next, they will be expected to use "driving skills" while walking in the halls - *STAY TO THE RIGHT, KEEP THEIR DISTANCE AND MOVE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE TO THE NEXT CLASS*. Students will have time to attend to their restroom duties in their passing times, over lunch and during class if needed.

LUNCH: During the in-person learning and hybrid learning times, students will be asked to space out during lunch in the cafeteria, (sit only on seats without an "X" on them), in the commons area by the cafeteria, and senior commons area outside the new gym. If more space is needed during the 4 designated lunch periods, we will expand into room 134 near the cafeteria commons area. After lunch, students will be expected to move directly to their afternoon classes.

OVER

STUDENTS WHO BECOME ILL:

Another change that parents should be aware of is that if a high school student becomes ill while at school, our school nurse will call and ask that a parent or guardian come to the North entrance (near the principal's office) to pick them up. Please call the high school office (927-2115, Ext. 3500 or the nurse, Ext. 3103) when you arrive at the North entrance and a staff member will walk your child out to your car.

LATE ARRIVALS: Students who arrive late to school or leave for an appointment and come back must enter through the NW secure entry and sign in to school in the Principal's Office. Students must still get a pass and sign out for appointments in the principal's office.

VISITORS TO SCHOOL: Access to the school will be very limited during the school day. Parents, visitors, sales reps and other outside individuals will not be allowed in the building throughout the day unless they have a scheduled appointment. If you do have an appointment, please remember to wear a mask at all times when you are in the building.

All students, except students in athletic programs, must exit the building by 3:30 and the building will be locked down by 3:45 p.m. Once again, students riding buses home must follow the same mask and protective wear guidelines as in school.

We are asking parents to screen your children before sending them to school each day. Please refer to the fact sheet at the end of this document, and if your student is experiencing any of those symptoms, you will need to keep them home. Please call the high school office to inform us if they will not be attending school. The symptoms are broad and could likely affect your students in the months to come. From home, they can continue to participate in school through remote learning until they are able to return to school in person. This is a year of unknowns and we hope that you will work with us to help keep our school safe and everyone healthy as we navigate through these uncertain times.

The following safety precautions will be taken in the school buildings during in-person and hybrid learning:

- Cloth face masks for anyone entering the building (or face shields if wearing a face mask creates education issues for the student)
- Masks and PPE for direct support student services
- Hygiene education and routines
- Daily building cleaning and frequent cleaning of high touch surfaces.
- Restricting nonessential visitors
- Discontinuing large gatherings
- Monitoring and excluding for illness of staff and students

Quick reminder to everyone we all need to look for ways to adapt to new changes and at the same time, practice patience, build positive relationships, learn to appreciate others, and be creative in developing a positive learning environment for all students. If you have any questions please feel free to call me at the high school office (218)927-7113.

Sincerely,

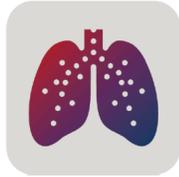
Paul Karelis
Principal, AHS

STOP!

Stay home if you have any of these symptoms,
so we can stay in school together.



Fever



Difficulty breathing



Loss of taste or smell



Muscle pain



Nausea, diarrhea, or vomiting



Chills



Cough



Runny nose or congestion



Sore throat



Headache



Fatigue