

Piqua City Schools
215 Looney Road
Piqua, OH 45356
937.773.4321

Piqua City Schools Parents,

We are busy preparing for the start of the 20-21 school year and look forward to working with your child(ren) once again. We appreciate your patience regarding important information that you need to help prepare for the upcoming school year. As you may be aware we have many guidelines from multiple agencies that we must follow to open our schools. Our goal is to communicate the most accurate information available at this time so you can properly begin to prepare your child(ren) for returning to school. We will continue to provide additional information on our website at www.piqua.org as it becomes available. Please note that this plan is subject to change prior to or during the school year if we receive additional guidance from the Ohio Governor, CDC, or Piqua Health Department that requires us to do so. Finally, we realize that you may have questions as the start of the school year nears. Important contact information can always be found on our website as well as at the end of this communication.

Piqua City Schools will be offering two options for the 2020-2021 school year. You can read about each option below and the guidelines that have been established for successful implementation prior to making your selection.

Option One (1): Attend a Piqua City School with the guidelines below.

If you choose this option for your child, no further action will be required as long as you are currently enrolled with Piqua City Schools.

Daily Self-Monitoring for Students and Staff

- Students and staff should check their temperature and health should be monitored at home on a daily basis before coming into a school setting.

Student and Staff Illnesses

- Overall daily absences will be monitored by the district for COVID-19 impact.
- Any student or staff member with a fever over 100F should stay home.
- Any student or staff member that has the following symptoms of COVID-19 should stay home from school and should be assessed for COVID-19:
 - Any of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing,
OR
 - Two of the following symptoms: fever, chills, rigors (shakes), myalgia (muscle ache), headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, GI issues (nausea or vomiting or diarrhea),
OR
 - Any of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing, fever, chills, rigors (shakes), myalgia (muscle aches), headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, GI Issues (nausea and vomiting or diarrhea) **AND** an epidemiological link to a case of COVID-19.

Returning to School after Illness

- If a student or staff member is **diagnosed through testing** as having COVID-19, they must meet the following criteria to return to school:
 - Three (3) days with no fever (without using fever reducing medication) **AND**
 - Other symptoms improved **AND**
 - Ten (10) days since symptoms first appeared
- Students and staff that only have a fever and no other symptoms and have not had any contact with an individual that has COVID-19 may return to school after they are fever free for twenty-four (24) hours without using any fever reducing medications.
- Any other illnesses should be handled in the routine manner according to district policies as outlined in the student handbook.
- To return to school after a COVID-19 diagnosis, the student must be transported to the school by the parent/guardian and must be checked by the school nurse at a scheduled appointment.
- Staff may be required to provide documentation from a physician to return to work or abide in accordance with updated guidance from the CDC or the Piqua Health Department.

Communications when a student/staff member test positive for COVID-19

- Communication will be developed in conjunction with the Piqua Health Department and the school district.
- Information will specify to parents/guardians which classroom/bus/school/other activity the confirmed case was in (ex. Mr. Smith). Necessary and appropriate information will be shared with staff. Student names will not be shared.
- The school district will cooperate with the Piqua Health Department's work in contact tracing.
- A quarantine from school will be required of any student or staff member who test positive with COVID-19 and anyone who is determined to have "exposure" as determined by the Piqua Health Department. The length of the quarantine will be determined by the Piqua Health Department.
- The Piqua Health Department will provide a letter for the school district to use and will explain/define what is considered "exposure" to COVID-19 that will result in a quarantine.

Wash and Sanitize Hands to Prevent Spread

- Hand washing and sanitizing are important tools in preventing the spread of COVID-19 by killing the virus. Students and staff will practice handwashing for at least twenty (20) seconds when hands are dirty, before and after eating, and after using the restroom. Schools will provide opportunities throughout the day for handwashing as necessary. To supplement handwashing, schools will provide hand sanitizer (60% to 95% alcohol based) in high traffic areas including entrances to buildings and classrooms and instruct students and staff to use the sanitizer when appropriate. Additionally, students and staff should avoid touching their mouths, noses, and eyes since the virus easily enters the body through these membranes.

Thoroughly Clean and Sanitize School Environment to Limit Spread on Shared Surfaces

- We will clean surfaces in schools and on buses frequently, paying close attention to high touch areas and shared materials, and make sanitation wipes or disinfectants labeled for use

against SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) available. The sharing of supplies, materials, and space will be minimized to the best of our ability.

Food Service

- Piqua City Schools will offer food service. Additional details regarding breakfast and lunch will be communicated by each school at a later date. Logistics will be in compliance with the Piqua Health Department and ODH Dine Safe Ohio Order based on:
 - Limited capacity/occupancy of the school cafeteria
 - Possible alternative locations for student dining to allow for proper social distancing
 - No self-service food stations
 - Individual condiments will be provided as necessary

Building Occupancy

- Students who attend school in person will incur some level of risk. Piqua City Schools will decrease the likelihood of infection with hygiene, cleaning, signage, limiting movement, and other safety procedures, but being in any public setting has a certain level of risk that cannot be eliminated.
- Occupancy of space will be determined based on each individual circumstance with the maximum amount of safety considerations possible.
- Piqua City Schools will strive for six feet of social distancing in classrooms to the best of our ability, but may go as low as three feet in some instances.
- Hallway traffic and capacity may be altered to provide the best opportunities for proper social distancing.

Face Coverings

- Properly worn face coverings are highly recommended for all students especially when physical distancing of six feet or more cannot be achieved.
- All students should have a face covering with them at all times in case it is needed.
- It would be respectful for students to properly wear a face covering around staff and students that may have high-risk health factors, especially when less than six feet of social distance can be achieved.
- It is important to note that face coverings may become required for students at any time prior to or during the school year by the Piqua Health Department, CDC, or the Ohio Governor relative to COVID-19 virus spikes in the state, county, region, city, or a specific school.
- Students properly wearing a face covering are less likely to be quarantined for fourteen (14) days from school by the Piqua Health Department if there should be a positive COVID-19 case within close proximity of them while learning and participating with others in a school setting.
- School employees will be required to wear a face shield at all times while in the presence of students. All staff will wear a face mask when less than six feet of social distance can be achieved unless they are exempt. The district will retain written justification for employees who are medically exempt from wearing a face covering.

Public Access to buildings

- To limit building capacity and reduce COVID-19 exposure, we are required to limit public access at this time.
- For the safety of staff and students, protocols such as taking temperatures and health screening questions may be implemented for all visitors.

- Visitors are required to properly wear a face covering at all times when in the building.
- Public access will be limited to square footage occupancy in the office areas to meet social distancing requirements. This may require visitors to wait outside until there is proper space for entry.
- We greatly appreciate everyone's understanding with these safety guidelines put in place with everyone's safety in mind.

Transportation

- Piqua City Schools will allow two students per seat and in some instances three students if the children are younger and from the same family.
- We will attempt to seat children from the same household together when possible.
- Districts are required to have seating charts for each bus.
- Properly worn face coverings are **required** for drivers AND students the ENTIRE time they are on the bus. The district may deny future transportation to a student who refuses to properly wear a face covering.
- Students and drivers that are medically exempt from wearing a face covering must present documentation from a medical doctor PRIOR to riding district transportation without a face covering.
- In the event state policies require school districts to use alternative schedules, Piqua City Schools may be required to adopt state minimum requirements for transportation to reduce the number of students who are eligible for school district transportation.

Recess

- Piqua City Schools believes recess is an important part of an elementary child's school day.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be provided near equipment and children will be instructed to apply it after using all equipment.
- Properly worn face coverings are recommended for all students when physical distancing of six feet or more cannot be achieved.
- Students must wash their hands and/or sanitize their hands before and after each recess.
- Equipment will be cleaned frequently between uses.

****** Following COVID-19 safety guidelines such as those mentioned above will help keep everyone healthy and in return allow us to keep our schools open. It is important to note that excessive absences may require us to shut school down for periods of time. Because of this, we appreciate everyone's efforts to help us all stay healthy when we open. Thank you!***

Option Two (2): Remote Learning:

Additional information will be provided soon regarding how to register for remote learning if you choose this option for your child that is already enrolled with Piqua City Schools.

- Piqua City Schools will offer a free remote learning option for families who have children that may be at high risk or are concerned about learning in a school building environment due to COVID-19.
- Parents will be required to complete all student registration requirements for enrollment.
- Students engaged with the remote learning option are required to complete all State and District testing requirements.

- Due to the cost associated with remote learning, students that select this option must complete a full semester at a time before transitioning back to a classroom setting.

Curriculum

- The remote learning curriculum will be aligned to all Ohio State Standards.
- Although the Standards will be the same, remote learning curriculum will not be paced in the same format as classroom instruction that is taking place in the Piqua City Schools setting.
- Remote learning will be done through the Internet. There will be no option for paper/pencil work packets.
- Not all high school classes are NCAA approved to meet athletic program requirements. Students choosing this option that wish to engage in the sports program should consult with their school counselor first.

Technology

- Students engaged with the remote learning option must use a computer to complete all work assignments. Again, there will be no paper/pencil work packets for this option.
- If a student does not have access to a computer, the school will provide one with a signed parent agreement regarding proper care, use, maintenance and a return policy.
- The district will provide free tech support for students and parents that may need assistance.
- Students that did not return their school-loaned computer from the 19-20 school year may not select the remote learning option until their computer has been safely returned to the Piqua City School inventory or the District has been reimbursed for its loss.

Internet Connection

- Students engaged with the remote learning option must be able to access the Internet.

Attendance

- The remote learning option will require students to log in and complete assignments on a daily basis to meet attendance and passage requirements.
- We are required to monitor and report attendance just as if the child were attending a school setting.
- Students choosing this option will have the same holidays and days off as students in the school setting.

Extracurricular

- Students choosing this option may still participate in extracurricular activities at a school district setting if all requirements are met.

Food Service

- Students choosing this option may still receive food prepared by Piqua City Schools through a safe pick up method at a specified location that will be outlined and communicated at a later date

Important Contact Information

Principals:

PHS Mr. Rob Messick, messickr@piqua.org, 937-773-6314

PJHS Mr. Jeff Clark, clarkj@piqua.org, 937-778-2997

PCIS Mr. Heath Butler, butlerh@piqua.org, 937-773-2017

Springcreek Mr. Ross Loudenback, loudenbackr@piqua.org, 937-773-6540

Washington Mrs. Tracy Trogdlon, trogdlont@piqua.org, 937-773-8472

Director of Special Education Services:

Mrs. Amy Todd, todda@piqua.org, 937-773-4321

Director of Student Services (Registration, Nursing, ESL, Gifted):

Ms. Mindy Gearhardt, gearhardtm@piqua.org, 937-773-4321

Director of Transportation:

Mrs. Beth Cain, cainb@piqua.org, 937-773-1560

School Nursing Services:

Mrs. Kerri Scott, scottkeri@piqua.org, 937-773-6540

Directors of Curriculum and Instruction:

Mrs. Teresa Anderson (elementary), andersont@piqua.org, 937-773-4321

Mr. Scott Bloom (secondary), blooms@piqua.org, 937-773-4321

Director of Technology:

Mr. Erich Heidenreich, heidenreiche@piqua.org, 937-773-4321

Director of Athletics:

Mr. Chip Hare, harec@piqua.org, 937-773-9577

School Fees:

Ms. Sarah Deavours, deavourss@piqua.org, 937-773-6314

Superintendent:

Mr. Dwayne Thompson, thompsond@piqua.org, 937-773-4321

Assistant Superintendent:

Mr. Tony Lyons, lyonst@piqua.org, 937-773-4321