

# Southeast Valley Return to Learn Plan 2021-2022

## **INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW**

The COVID-19 continues to change our world. However, it has not changed the need to educate all of our students. Southeast Valley is committed to providing the resources needed for our students to continue to receive a high quality education. Our commitment will continue to be on teaching and learning for the 2021-2022 school year.

The safety of our students and staff is a top priority. The needs of all students will continue to be met through meaningful and purposeful instruction. This document provides guidance for students, families and employees. It is broken down into seven categories: leadership, infrastructure, health and safety, Iowa academic standards, equity, social emotional behavioral health and communications.

## **LEADERSHIP**

Southeast Valley will continue to focus learning on strong relationships and instruction for students. Resources and systems will be in place to support teachers and staff in meeting the needs of all learners. District leaders will work to continuously ensure the academic and social emotional needs of students and staff are being met.

## **INFRASTRUCTURE**

Infrastructure includes organizational structures critical in day-to-day operations. This includes ensuring everyone has access to the technology needed to support student learning, establishing district/school calendars to maximize student learning opportunities, understanding how to approach attendance and grading/promotion across learning models, supporting needed professional development opportunities for teachers and staff, and adhering to privacy/FERPA concerns.

## **TECHNOLOGY ACCESS**

Southeast Valley will provide each K-12 student with a device (Chromebook or iPad). This will limit the sharing of devices, which are considered high touch surfaces, while students are in school.

## **CALENDAR**

The 2021-2022 calendar has student learning beginning on August 25 and concluding on May 26. There are teacher professional development days built into five months (August, November, January, February, and May).

## **ATTENDANCE**

Attendance will be as it was before the COVID-19 protocols came into place.

## **GRADING/PROMOTION**

Southeast Valley's current grading policies and practices will be used to assess student learning. This will help ensure consistency for staff, students and families. Grades will be assigned and credit

accrued for all classes. Teachers will update grades in JMC portal on a weekly basis to help families keep track of how students are doing. (As always, a quick call or email to the teacher is always welcome.)

## STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Professional learning opportunities for staff will focus on health and safety, technology (engagement, assessment and feedback strategies for at home learning), and social emotional behavioral health. Staff will continue to meet regularly on Wednesdays during early dismissals.

## PRIVACY/FERPA

Southeast Valley will continue to adhere to all privacy and FERPA laws.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

The health and safety of our Jaguars students, families and staff are first and foremost in planning for the 2021-2022 school year.

Privacy and confidentiality (HIPPA and FERPA) will be ensured for those seeking healthcare. Counselors will be available to address emotional/behavior needs in relations to COVID-19.

### Health and Safety General Guidelines

- Staff and students **stay home when ill.**
- **Wash hands** frequently for at least 20 seconds, if unavailable use hand sanitizer. Hand sanitizer and hand washing should be emphasized and encouraged throughout the school day.
- Encourage students and staff to **cover coughs and sneezes.**
- Wearing **face coverings** by students and staff is optional.
- **Physical distancing of 6 feet (if possible):**
  - Maximize distance between students and staff at all times. If 6 feet isn't feasible, then distancing as much as possible in every situation.
- Students should be reminded to not touch their face and keep hands to themselves.
- Disinfect high touch surfaces.
- Screen for symptoms both at home and school
  - Fever of 100.4 or greater
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - Cough
  - Sore throat
  - Chills
  - New loss of taste or smell
  - Body Aches or muscle pain
  - Headache

### Health and Safety of Staff

- Staff will be reminded to stay home if they are sick/not feeling well
- Staff will follow the Public Health guidelines if testing positive for COVID-19 or have an exposure to COVID-19.

## Health and Safety of Students

- Immunocompromised students will be encouraged to seek advice from their health care provider to determine re-entry into school or to be educated online.
- Students will be required to follow Public Health guidelines if testing positive for COVID-19 or have an exposure to COVID-19.
- Students who develop COVID-19 like illness/symptoms at school may be required to wear a mask (if feasible) until they can be picked up by a parent/guardian or exit building
- Teachers will notify the nurse/office if an ill student needs to be seen.
- Students must be free of fever without the use of medication for minimum of 24 hours before returning to school. A fever is considered 100.4 degrees or higher.

## Sanitation Supplies

- Hand Sanitizer and Cleaning Supplies may be obtained and provided as needed for staff and students.
- Disinfecting wipes and hand sanitizer may be brought for class or individual use by staff and students
- Paper towels and sanitizer spray bottles may be supplied to each teacher for the classroom
- Health/Safety/Sanitation education will be provided to staff and students as needed

## Nurse Office Structure

- Sick kids will be sent to a designated area, if feasible
- Each office has appropriate ventilation requirements per building
- Each office area will be cleaned/disinfected after each child
- Students with possible respiratory illness will be required to wear a mask until parent arrives or they are able to exit the building, if feasible.
- Teachers will notify nurse/office if an ill student needs seen.
- Students will have scheduled times to take daily medications in the morning, lunchtime and afternoon

## Cleaning Time and Routine

- Daily cleaning will be continued with additional focus for high touch areas

## Buses/ transport vehicles

- Transportation will be as it was before the COVID-19 protocols came into place.

## Social distancing

- Social distancing will be practiced when possible
- Volunteers, community partners and parents will be limited in the buildings
- Community use of buildings will be considered independently at the time of the request and cancellation may happen at any time. Access will be limited, and decisions may be made in cooperation of public health and the current health conditions of the school and area.
- Fire and tornado drills will be held per state requirements and recommendations

## Mitigation Strategies

- Education and frequent reminders will be provided to staff and students
- Allow staff and students to wear masks with education on proper use, removal, and care/cleaning
- Safety equipment may be provided for teachers and staff as feasible. Education will be provided on use of safety equipment as needed and as requested
- Sports will follow IGHSAA and IAHSAA guidelines and restrictions as feasible
- Choir/Band will follow IHSMA guidelines and restrictions as feasible

## BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

The Southeast Valley Buildings and Grounds department is dedicated to providing clean, safe and well-maintained learning environments that support all educational activities. Cleaning practices focus on cleaning for health, which includes an emphasis on disinfection of health sensitive and high touch areas, where bacteria and viruses are most likely to be transmitted.

There is a great emphasis on disinfection activities during pandemics and times of health crisis. The disinfection of health sensitive areas is a priority and this work is required at all times, including times when there is a shortage of custodial staff.

## IOWA ACADEMIC STANDARDS

At Southeast Valley, academic learning will continue to be a priority.

A major goal for the 21-22 school year is compacting curriculum. The major goal of this is to continue to teach students current grade level standards while efficiently identifying individual gaps in learning while learning to successfully engage in the current grade level learning. That will mean the following:

- Access for all students to core instruction based on universal core skills and knowledge
- Identify pre-requisite skills for each universal core skill and piece of knowledge (communicate to all stakeholders regular progress)
- Pre-assess students/continuous formative assessment (communicate to all stakeholders regular progress)
- Intervention time embedded in each master schedule
- Use opportunities to embed blended/flipped learning and teach expectations and protocols of those

Learning will occur in a traditional classroom setting with accommodations for social distancing (as feasible), cleaning and disinfecting, and symptom monitoring. Teachers will use assessments to determine appropriate entry points to begin the year with their students with the goal of mastering their current grade level standards. These assessments will also be used to identify instructional needs to be incorporated into current grade level learning. As always, students will be provided with multiple opportunities to meet learning targets of the current grade level while supporting students with unfinished learning from the previous year as necessary.

Critical action steps will address the learning needs of all students

The action steps include:

- Determining Priority Standards
- Use of Professional Learning Communities by staff to access student progress



- Professional development on how to use student voice, differentiation, scaffolding, and online instruction as well as social emotional behavioral health
- Planning for teachers who may be at health-risk and/or students who will not attend on site because of a health-risk to themselves or family and may have extended absences
- Regular check ins between students and staff
- Practice online learning norms in case of use of the “Hybrid” or “At Home” learning models

## **EQUITY**

Southeast Valley is committed to creating equitable learning opportunities for all students. Equity in this context is focused on ensuring all students, including students with individualized education plans, English language learners, students at risk and talented and gifted students, have access to a free and appropriate public education, are able to access the Iowa Content Standards and have the supports needed to progress in their learning.

### **EQUITY FOR STUDENTS ON IEPs**

Parents/guardians will be provided necessary passwords and video tutorials for programs used. Back to school events will focus on teaching technology used. Links to videos will be available online or at individual request. IEP meetings will be held with the parent/guardian, principal and special education teacher physically together when possible. Others may attend online.

Teachers and staff will have set collaborative time for special education and general education every week. Teachers and staff will continue to support student IEP goals and accommodations.

Special Education students are general education students first. They will get core instruction in the general education classroom with support from special education staff. Services for medically fragile students will be determined by the IEP team in their Return to Learn Plan in the IEP. Students who are identified as needing alternate assessment and or Family Service Plans will receive in person instruction with a location to be determined by IEP team.

504 plans will be reviewed, and changes made as a team to address at home learning with support needed in place for student success. These plans will need to be completed by September 30, 2020. 504 meetings would follow IEP protocol for meeting with families, administration and counseling staff on site for these meetings.

### **EQUITY FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS (ELL)**

Parents/guardians will be provided recordings in Spanish as well as in English if necessary. Parents/guardians will be provided necessary passwords and video tutorials for programs used. Back to school events will focus on teaching technology used. Links to videos will be available online or at individual request. ELL students will each have a device and access to the internet. All ELL students will have access to the Imagine Learning program. Elementary students will be placed in similar classes for push-in services and will have access to a bilingual tutor for beginners with weekly pull small group pull-out sessions. Middle school students will be placed on the same team.

Teachers and staff will provide communication in English and Spanish if necessary.

## **EQUITY FOR STUDENTS AT-RISK**

Parents/guardians will be provided necessary passwords and video tutorials for programs used. Back to school events will focus on teaching technology used. Links to videos will be available online or at individual request. Schedules for every teacher will be provided for all staff to reference. At-risk teams will meet weekly to determine needs of students, review interventions and provide tools for support for students. Intervention tools for academics and behavior will be provided as needed by staff. Staff will check in with students/families to help determine basic needs such as food, shelter, clothing and mental and physical health. Each building will keep a list of needs, how they can be met and who is following up with the family.

Students identified as at-risk will meet with staff as needed for academic/behavior supports. All students will have a device and access to the internet.

## **EQUITY FOR TAG STUDENTS**

Parents/guardians will be provided necessary passwords and video tutorials for programs used. Back to school events will focus on teaching technology used. Links to videos will be available online or at individual request. Teachers/staff will ensure TAG/support time following the current pull-out time. Elementary will continue to push into classrooms with enrichment activities as well as conduct pull-out sessions. Social emotional learning and extensions will be addressed. Staff will plan for enrichment while others are filling gaps. Teachers will communicate with families to take stock of student needs.

## **SOCIAL EMOTIONAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**

The social emotional behavioral health of the Southeast Valley teachers, staff, students and families is first and foremost as we plan for the 2021-2022 school year. Our priority will be securing and enhancing supportive relationships with staff, students and their families.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

Southeast Valley will continue to keep staff, families, students and the Jaguar community informed about the work of the District.

The District's goal is to produce clear and consistent messages across all channels to educate and inform our stakeholders.

In order to ensure that all families receive important messages, translation services will be available for Spanish speaking families.

## **INTERNAL COMMUNICATION**

Southeast Valley provides regular and urgent messages to our staff in multiple ways including email, phone calls, text messages, face-to-face and/or virtual meetings.

- Email is our primary mode of communication with employees. All staff should check their email a minimum of once a day.
- Phone and text is used for urgent messages and as a reminder for staff to check their email.
- Face-to-face/virtual meetings may be used by building and/or department leaders to share updates and information.

## **EXTERNAL COMMUNICATION**

These are the messages sent to all audiences outside of the employees. They include day-to-day messaging, urgent information and changes to health/safety status. In many instances these

messages will also be sent to staff. Delivery method may include emails, text messaging, the website and social media. It may also include traditional media coverage.

- Email is our primary mode of communication. These emails will be sent through JMC.
- Texts may also be used to provide important updates and crisis alerts. With the potential for movement between the three learning models, these immediate contact tools become increasingly important. Texts will also be sent through JMC.
- Website announcements are used for timely updates and announcements. Information will be placed in a banner near the top of the homepage, [www.southeastvalley.org](http://www.southeastvalley.org)
- Social media may be used for updates and reminders. Follow or like the District on Facebook and Twitter for updates.

#### CRISIS COMMUNICATION

Returning to school during an ongoing pandemic will likely create the need for day-to-day health and status updates. To communicate our updates and responses, the District will rely on JMC for emails and texts, our website and social media channels.

