



September 9, 2020

Dear Parents,

I know you are eager to get more information about the reopening of school. I thank you for your patience. We have been busy getting everything ready for students to come on campus. Please read this document carefully so that you know what to expect.

Prior to School

- Prepare your child mentally for coming to school by talking about the expectations, but also by telling them about some of the things to look forward to.
- Have your children practice wearing a face covering or mask. They will be required at school. A face shield is not accepted as the only facial covering, unless there is a written exemption for a face shield. Neck gaitors are acceptable.
- Send a spare face covering to school. We will have some disposable ones, but it is good to have a spare that a child likes and is familiar with.
- We also suggest a lanyard to hold the face covering around necks when eating. PTO will be gifting lanyards to all of the students when they return.
- Please take your child's temperature. We do this as our commitment to one another in our community. Keep your child home if they do not feel well.
- Send your child with a labeled water bottle. We have filtered and chilled water at filling stations. No drinking fountains are open however.

Arrival to School

To mitigate exposure we would like to have a staggered arrival time. This will only work if we have the cooperation of our community. Please adhere to the timelines as best you can. We will have many adults and friendly faces greeting the children and guiding them to their classrooms. Only staff and students will be permitted on campus.

- Bus Riders will arrive between 8:00am and 8:08am. They will enter through the front gate as always. Students will be directed to their classrooms by staff.
- Walkers should arrive to school between 8:10am and 8:15am. Families who walk to school together are encouraged to do so, but we ask that you say your goodbyes at our designated cones outside the school (on Gardner). Only staff and students will be permitted to the gates and beyond.
- Car Riders should begin dropping off after 8:10am. **Please do NOT park.** It will be faster and safer if parents stay in the car. Teachers and staff will be helping open car doors, put back packs on children, and guide them the whole way.



Eating

Breakfast and lunch will be available in our cafeteria and are free for everyone until the end of December. Of course, students are welcome to bring their lunch as well.

- Breakfast will be eaten in the classrooms or, when the weather is nice, outside.
- Students who bring their lunch are encouraged to bring it in a brown bag. It is challenging keeping track of lunch boxes during recess and we won't be using the usual bucket system we used in the past. If children do have lunch boxes, they can put them on benches outside until it is time to go inside.
- Only one grade level will be in the cafeteria at a time. Students will face the same direction and will sit two to a bench. It won't be as social as the students are used to, but it will be safe.
- When weather permits, we will set up tables outside for eating (and even for learning!)
- Students will enter the cafeteria through two doors and lining up to go into the cafeteria will be minimal.
- Students may bring a snack. There will not be shared snacks in the classroom. Snack time will be taken outside.

Playing

Our children have all been missing social interaction a great deal. We feel confident we can provide a safe, and fun way for kids to play.

- Grade level recess will be staggered, so there is no overlap.
- All teachers will be monitoring their own students at playtime.
- Everyone will be expected to wear facial coverings, but we will have designated areas where children can have space to take a break from their mask.
- Our play structures will be closed, as they tend to promote close contact.
- Students can swing, play four square, tether ball, kick ball, and many other new games we have planned to teach them that are naturally distanced.
- Teachers will take whole classes to bathroom breaks to help monitor the bathrooms.
- Students may use the bathroom any time they need to during the day. There will be no bathroom passes. Students will be reminded to wait outside the bathroom if the stalls are full.
- Time for handwashing will be made after transitions going to lunch, to specials, and any time students enter the classroom. We will promote hand washing throughout the day.



Learning

As has become abundantly clear, school is so much more than reading, writing, and arithmetic as they say. We know the social aspect of school has been lacking for our students, as well as some of the parts of learning that happen best in person. We are committed to bringing a great learning experience to our students.

- Student desks will all face the same direction in classrooms and be distanced from one another.
- Reading nooks, and other “cozy” places in classrooms have been eliminated for now.
- Students will wear masks while in the classroom. Teachers will make sure to allow for mask breaks in designated areas whenever children need it.
- Students will go to specials classes – music, PE, technology, and library.
- All teachers will clean with disinfectant between student groups and at the end of the day.
- Teachers will keep classroom doors open and fans in doorways for additional ventilation.
- Students will not share materials. If learning tools (scissors, rulers) are used in class, they will be disinfected before using them again, but in most cases students will be asked to have their own.
- If a student feels ill or shows any one of the COVID-19 symptoms, they will be sent home and will not be permitted to return until they have had a negative test or 10 days have passed with no symptoms.
- We won’t have assemblies with all of the children in one area, but I will continue to do morning announcements over video and our Toro Tickets will continue. We are hopeful to find ways to bring our community together even if we cannot be close to each other.

Dismissal

Our dismissal system will be very different from ever before, but we are hopeful that it is efficient and most importantly, safe.

- We will attempt to stagger the times when parents come to pick up to lessen the traffic.
- The oldest sibling will dictate times for pick up. Oldest siblings will pick up their younger siblings at the younger sibling’s classroom.
- At 2:45pm parents of 2nd graders (and then 6th graders, beginning on the 21st) may begin to pick up.
- At 2:50pm parents of 1st graders (and then 4th and 5th graders) may begin to pick up
- At 2:55pm parents of Kindergarten (and 3rd grade) may begin to pick up.

Toros Together



- Parents will pull into the south drive with a clear sign of last name, grade, and teacher in the car window. You will be greeted by a staff member with a radio who will call to the teachers that you have arrived. Teachers will send the students out as soon as they are called. By the time you drive to the front of the line, your child will be ready to load into the car.
- Walkers can meet their parents at the same cones as drop off in the morning. No parents will be permitted to come up to the gates.
- Bus riders will be called to the busses as they arrive. Students will be guided to the busses by teachers and assistants.
- Children who are picked up by a day care van will be called as the van arrives. It helps if you let us know ahead of time if your child will ride a day care van.

We recognize the complexities of this situation, but are confident in our ability to provide a safe learning environment for your children. Our entire Tarwater staff is committed to doing our very best. The immense trust you are putting in us is certainly not lost on us, and we thank you for your trust and your support. We can do this together.

Sincerely,

Diane Hale

Diane Hale, Principal