

Wheatley Fall 2020 Reopening Overview

DRAFT v1

We are excited to share our initial plans for reopening Wheatley School this fall. In this document, you will find information about our working plan to safely reopen using a hybrid instructional model. This plan was developed using guidance from the Oregon Department of Education, the Oregon Health Authority, the Centers for Disease Control, Multnomah County Health Department, and MESD School Health Services.

Looking to reopen, our goals are to:

1. Maximize the health and safety of all our students and staff, including those identified as medically at risk;
2. Ensure equitable access for all students, including those who are Black, Indigenous, a student of color and/or LGBTQIA+, to the full range of educational services and quality instruction; and
3. Provide individualized, specially designed instruction to all students in accordance with their learning needs.

Question: What is included in your plan?

Our plan takes into account eight main areas for reopening. These areas include (1) public health protocols, (2) facilities and school operations, (3) response to outbreak, (4) equity, (5) instruction, (6) family and community engagement, (7) mental, social and emotional health, and (8) staffing and personnel.

Question: When will I know if students will be back in person or continue with distance learning?

We are planning to provide a mixture of in-person and distance learning. Students will be on an A or B schedule. Students in Group A will attend in-person learning on Monday and Thursday, while students in Group B will attend in-person learning on Tuesday and Friday. Wednesday will be dedicated to deep cleaning and staff training, while all students are home doing distance learning. All students will have the option to attend via the comprehensive distance-learning model entirely, or the days they are not attending in-person learning. This plan remains tentative as we continue to monitor conditions and listen to feedback. A final decision will be made by August 15, 2020 and communicated directly to all parents, students, and staff.

Question: Where can I access the initial reopening plan draft?

[Detailed Reopening Plan for Wheatley School 7/8/20 Draft \(21 pages\) \(PDF\)](#)

We will be updating this plan based on feedback from stakeholders like you and as additional guidance is released. Our next scheduled draft will be posted on August 3, 2020, and we will ask for additional feedback. Our final plan will be available on August 15, 2020.

Question: How will you keep students and staff safe? Will the adults and students be required to wear masks?

Health and Safety are our priority.

- All staff will be provided with and are required to wear masks and/or face shields.
- Students who are 12 years and older are required to wear masks, except when medically/developmentally not appropriate. Masks will be provided.
- All students will be required to wash hands or use hand sanitizer before entering the building and when making transitions to other instructional spaces.
- All students will be supported with frequent hand-washing or using hand sanitizer before and after meals.
- Staff will clean all touch-point surfaces before school and on a schedule multiple times throughout the day.
- Physical distancing (six feet or more) will be maintained to the greatest extent possible.

Question: What is the process if a student or staff member becomes sick with COVID-19? How will I be informed?

MESD School Health Services is currently working on developing the communication plan.

- The Principal will develop a return-to-school letter at the beginning of the school year to inform stakeholders of the established safety protocols. Letters will be emailed, mailed, placed on the school website, and on the school Facebook page. The letter will go out to families, staff and district representatives.
- The district safety committee (with the school nurse) will develop communication to staff, students, and families on the infection control measures being implemented to prevent spread of disease (see Communicable Disease Plan).
- The district safety committee (with the school nurse) will develop protocols for communicating with anyone who has come into close or sustained contact with a confirmed case or when a new case has been confirmed and how the district is responding.
- The district safety committee (with the school nurse) will update the Communicable Disease Plan with communication protocols.
- All communication will be accessible to all stakeholders in their preferred language.

Question: What if a student becomes sick at home? How do we communicate with the school?

We will send more detailed information about communication procedures to families when school starts. What we can share now is that we will be asking families and care providers to monitor students for symptoms at home. If a student or family/household member displays symptoms or has been diagnosed with COVID-19, the family or care provider should notify Mary Smith, Wheatley School Administrative Assistant, at 503-262-4000 or msmith@mesd.k12.or.us and keep their child home.

Question: Will students be penalized for not attending school in person?

No. We will work with families, care providers, and students to develop plans to provide remote learning options on an as-needed basis.

Question: What if I do not feel comfortable with my student attending a school site? Can I have online distance learning full-time as an option?

Yes. A complete online distance-learning option will be available if the guardian is concerned regarding on-site reentrance to school. Please contact Mary Smith, Wheatley School Administrative Assistant, at 503-262-4000 or msmith@mesd.k12.or.us to discuss options.

Question: Will you be able to meet the individualized needs of students with IEPs?

Yes. Our special education team will work with families and students and the student's IEP team to ensure that the student is provided with FAPE in the least restrictive environment possible, in accordance with the student's IEP.

Question: Will there be opportunities for parents and guardians to learn how to navigate the devices for home learning? When will those take place?

Yes. We will be hosting multiple sessions beginning in late August. We will communicate with families about those sessions through Facebook, our website, and via email.

Question: I have additional questions about plans for reopening schools, who do I contact?

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