



WILDWOOD CREST SCHOOL DISTRICT
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David J. Del Conte, Jr., Superintendent

Dear CMS Families,

I hope you all had a wonderful and restful summer, everyone here at CMS is looking forward to the start of another school year. Since June, the Wildwood Crest School District has gathered feedback from a number of sources to develop the Safe Return to School Plan for the 2021-2022 School Year. The initial draft of the plan was posted on our school website in June 2020. Although we recognize there are varying perspectives on school safety measures, the district has outlined a plan for opening CMS for the 2021-2022 school year that we feel best aligns parent concern and NJDOE requirements. These recommendations are meant to ensure staff and student safety as well as provide as supportive of a learning environment as possible. The plan will be reviewed monthly during the 2021/2022 school year and updated as requirements and conditions change. This information will be shared with the public through district communications. Below is an outline of CMS's Safe Return to School Plan. A presentation titled: CMS Safe Reopening 2021/2022 School Year is available on our school website as well that includes information regarding a safe reopening of CMS.

Instructional Model

In-Person Instructional Model PreK-8

The school day is built to maximize instructional learning time within a safe learning environment. At all grade levels:

- Students will attend school 5 days per week on full day schedules.
- Our school will be fully open, and 100% in-person attendance is expected.
- Health and Safety remain a priority, therefore many of our COVID protocols will remain.

Social Emotional and Mental Health Supports

The CMS is dedicated to the physical and mental wellness of all students. The goal of the district's mental health plan is to expand on the multi-tiered system of support currently in place for mental and social-emotional health and improve the quality and accessibility of mental health services through direct services and/or referral to outside providers. Student support is provided through classroom SEL lessons, targeted skills groups, individual and group counseling supports, wellness clubs/activities, and referrals to community agencies.

Instructional Continuity

Consistency with learning platforms will provide instructional continuity in the event of a district-wide or individual student disruption of learning due to crisis. At each grade level consistent use of Google Classroom will facilitate online access to classroom content. This will ensure that any student who may need to quarantine will be able to continue his or her learning from home.

Schedules

Middle School students will be moving from classroom to classroom and Kindergarten through 8th will be traveling to their Special Area classrooms (Gym, Art, Music, Library, STEM). The bell schedule and times are staying the same as last year.

Lunch will be held in the cafeteria for students in grades 1st through 8th. Preschool 3 & 4 and kindergarten will eat in the classroom. Students will be socially distanced as close to 6 feet as possible as well as having other safety measures present.

Health and Safety Protocols

Face Coverings for students, staff, and visitors

As mandated by the Governor, the wearing of masks for the start of the 2021-2022 school year is required while **inside** school buildings for all students, staff, and visitors regardless of vaccination status. When the Governor lifts the mandate, masks at CMS will be optional. Mask breaks will occur throughout the day and students will not wear masks outside at lunch, recess, physical education, or directed physical activity.

Social Distancing

Social distancing in classroom settings is one prevention strategy to utilize, as feasible, with other key mitigation strategies to maintain healthy schools. CMS will adhere to current and relevant CDC guidance regarding physical distancing as well as relevant and current Executive Orders issued by the State of New Jersey. Students that attend CMS will be expected to physically distance throughout the facility during the school day or until different guidance is issued regarding physical distance by the CDC and/or New Jersey Department of Health. Students will remain three (3) feet socially distanced in the classrooms and common areas where practicable. Best practice instructional techniques are recommended to continue (small groups, labs, interventions, etc.). Staff in all areas will maintain accurate seating charts and attendance records for the purpose of any necessary contact tracing.

Screening and Testing

CMS will continue to utilize the self screening tool provided by the NJDOH that reflects COVID-19 screening requirements for all students, faculty, and staff. The screening requirements are delineated in weekly/ daily district school correspondence to staff and families. Furthermore, students, faculty, and staff (vaccinated or unvaccinated) who manifest or present symptoms of COVID-19, based on the screening tool, will be directed and expected to follow the most current and relevant guidance regarding self-quarantine provided by the CDC and/or the New Jersey Department of Health. The District's COVID-19 screening tool will be distributed to students, faculty, and staff at the beginning of the school year. In addition, regular reminders and social media posts will be shared with stakeholders to reinforce the district's self screening expectations for all individuals. Faculty and staff will continue to monitor students for any signs of illness and report any concerns to the school nurses and proper administration.

The district has identified the following rapid testing site on the island:

Cape Regional Urgent Care- Wildwood
406 W Rio Grande Ave

Response to Symptomatic Students and Staff

CMS will have a designated staff member trained in best practice procedures for isolating individuals (unvaccinated and vaccinated) who present with symptoms related to COVID-19. The district will continue to utilize an isolation room for individuals that are in attendance and presenting symptoms of COVID-19. Furthermore, any individuals suspected of having COVID-19 will be directed to be tested for and self-quarantine based on current and relevant CDC and/or New Jersey Department of Health guidance. The

District will continue to work in partnership and communicate with the Cape May County Department of Health regarding self- quarantine periods for identified students and staff.

Exclusion & Continuity of Learning

If a school is required to exclude a student, group of students, a class, or multiple classes as a result of contact tracing the school will be prepared to offer virtual or remote instruction to those students in a manner commensurate with in-person instruction to the extent possible, Teacher(s) will provide communication and procedures for the alternate learning environment within 24 hours of notification. **This option is only available for documented Covid related absences.** In the case of other absences, students will follow make-up work procedures provided by their individual teachers(s).

****Please note, vaccinated students identified as a close contact do not need to quarantine if symptoms are not present. Unvaccinated students identified as a close contact will be required to quarantine based on county health guidelines.**

School Operations:

This weekend all families will receive a letter from Mr. Lhulier that will outline arrival, dismissal, and other CMS daily procedures. Next Monday, the Parent Portal will be active and students will be able to learn who their teacher is and see their schedule. Our school website will also have a Beginning of the Year section. You will be able to access information regarding all beginning of the year procedures and expectations. For example, the 2021/2022 calendar and Suggested Supply Lists are on our website under the **Beginning of the Year Information** heading. You can access our school website at: www.crestmem.edu

I welcome you to the start of another school year with the confidence that we can meet the challenges that lie ahead together.

Sincerely,

David J. Del Conte Jr.