

CRICKET COMEBACK

The COVID-19 pandemic has taught us a tremendous amount about schools, students, staff members, and families. It has shown us who we are as a community. It has given us an opportunity to grow closer even in a situation where it was easy to break us apart. Two questions were answered unequivocally when the pandemic impacted schools in March of 2020...

How well do we know our students?

What are we willing to do for them when they are not here?

The answers were displayed in calls, texts, emails, video chats, trips to porches, food delivery, and any adjustment we could make to ensure our students had the best possible experience in a time where there was no playbook or best practice plan. Our staff connected with kids and families with the intent to keep them connected to school. It wasn't perfect, but we learned and kept the connection to kids at the heart of everything we tried to do. We are tremendously proud of our staff, students, and families and now is our time to move forward in a way that provides more academic clarity, while keeping what made the last 3 months of school as successful as it could be...the connection between staff, students, and families.

SURVEY DATA

Data was collected by emailing all parents and asking them to fill out a survey for each student. Currently we have 820 students enrolled for 2020-21 and we received 719 surveys. That equates to 89% of students accounted for in the survey data. It is a sound sample size to move forward with the decision making process. The full survey results can be found on our website at <https://www.fallcreek.k12.wi.us/district/closure.cfm>

That data drove the following guiding principles as we move into 2020-21.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

As we move to a final decision regarding the beginning of the school year there are 3 Guiding Principles that will anchor the decision making process:

1. Safety of students, staff, and community
2. Ensure learning at all levels that meet state standards
3. Flexibility of delivery

After meeting with staff members and taking parent survey data into consideration we are considering the following:

- Our youngest learners need to be on campus to learn in an effective manner. They need structured play. They need immediate feedback. They need an opportunity to work with our staff on developing foundational skills. Their learning needs are best met in the school building.
- Our parents are in favor of a return to school with precautions taken (Encouraged AND Required).
- As students move through the 4K-12 experience the acceptance of a virtual option grew, but never was the preferred option.

OPTIONS FOR LEARNING

These were the 5 options discussed prior to and at the board meeting on July 20th. DUE TO SPACE ISSUES and the desire to keep all groups onsite when we could, we believe that OPTION 3 is the best option for us to begin the 2020-21 school year in Fall Creek.

| Options | 4K-5 | 6-8 | 9-12 | SPED/ Intervention Groups |
|----------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Option 1 | ONSITE LEARNING | ONSITE LEARNING | ONSITE LEARNING | ONSITE LEARNING |
| Option 2 | ONSITE LEARNING | ONSITE LEARNING | BLENDED A/B SCHEDULE | INDIVIDUAL PLANNING |
| Option 3 | ONSITE LEARNING | BLENDED A/B SCHEDULE | BLENDED A/B SCHEDULE | INDIVIDUAL PLANNING |
| Option 4 | BLENDED A/B SCHEDULE | BLENDED A/B SCHEDULE | BLENDED A/B SCHEDULE | INDIVIDUAL PLANNING |
| Option 5 | VIRTUAL LEARNING | VIRTUAL LEARNING | VIRTUAL LEARNING | VIRTUAL LEARNING |

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

ONSITE MODEL

Students in grades K-5 will begin the year in our fully onsite model. They will attend school onsite Monday-Friday. The weekend will be used to deep clean the classrooms. They are typically placed in a cohort model and will continue in that environment to begin the 2020-21 school year. 4K will continue their traditional schedule of Monday-Thursday.

LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

The Learning Environments will be developed in conjunction with those instructing in those particular areas. The key tenants that will drive the learning environment development process are:

1. The safety and health of staff, students, and community.
2. Keeping students in a cohort model for the majority of the day while also maintaining sub cohorts in classrooms. For example, a class of 16 would remain together for most of the day, within that classroom small group work would happen with the same 2-4 students as much as possible.
3. Provide a socially acceptable and emotionally responsible opportunity for students. Kids need to be kids and we have to allow that to happen in small groups if we can.

MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL

BLENDDED MODEL

Students will be divided into an A/B rotation to receive onsite services for 2 days and virtual learning for 3 days. The schedule will be as follows:

Group A: Face to Face Instruction Monday and Tuesday. Virtual Instruction on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

Group B: Face to Face Instruction on Thursday and Friday. Virtual Instruction on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.

4K-12TH GRADE 100% VIRTUAL

CRICKET ONLINE

CRICKET ONLINE is our complete 100% online instructional model for families choosing to be offsite to begin the 2020-21 school year. All instruction will take place virtually. CRICKET ONLINE will look different at different levels. Virtual lessons will consist of working with our staff at the 4K-5 level and primarily the use of our online Gradpoint platform at the 6-12 level. Families choosing this option will be able to reenter the other options at specified times throughout the year.

STUDENT SERVICES

The Fall Creek School District is committed to ensuring all students with Individual Education Plans are provided services in compliance with all state and federal guidelines. We will work with all students and families to provide a free and appropriate education in accordance with the student's IEP, regardless of which plan is rolled out for the 4K-12 group.

Delivery of Service

Onsite Learning Model-Students will be provided services per their IEP. If needed and appropriate, virtual services could be provided to reduce movement through school or in the event they are unable to attend.

Blended Model-The IEP team will determine if the services are to be provided in person or remotely based on need. The student in person time could be extended in the event that they are on an A/B schedule. For example, students may be placed in Group A but still attend portions or all of the session for Group B to attain the provisions of their IEP.

Virtual Model-Students will follow the virtual learning schedule and receive their services remotely. This process will only be necessary if the school building was closed for a period of time or indefinitely.

Intervention Services-The Fall Creek School District believes that the intervention process for students is essential to their success. The intervention model will mirror services developed for students with IEPs in that we will continue to utilize staff in the capacity of intervention specialists. Elementary math and reading intervention will continue.

ONSITE ENVIRONMENT

Face Coverings

Face covering requirements will adhere to the ORDERS of the WI Health Department, the Eau Claire County Health Department, and those enacted by the Governor of Wisconsin. Students will be asked to bring a mask to school daily. The district will provide masks to those who need them and will also have disposable masks available. Staff members will provide mini lessons to start the year regarding mask wearing, care of masks, and how to keep them clean. The state is currently under a mask order requiring face coverings in all areas outside of the home, which would include schools, through September 28th. When that order completes, we will encourage mask use throughout the day, but will not mandate masks to be worn at all time unless social distancing rules are unable to be followed.

Safety of Environment

We will increase the sanitization measures in the school which will include deep cleaning of the building, frequent air filter changes to ensure the air flow is healthy, and utilizing cleaning materials that are effective while understanding that constant use could be abrasive to people in the building. We will limit visitors to the building, establish a process for drop off/pick up that doesn't bottleneck our exits, instruct students/staff on proper hand washing procedures, prioritize physical distancing, provide PPE to students (2 masks will be provided), and increased health checks for those showing symptoms.

Physical Space

The district will focus on furniture adjustment to allow for maximum use of space, use of individual supplies, lunch served in cohorts in larger areas, increased individual sanitization areas, utilize all open spaces in the building to reduce the number of students in each space, and limited shared supplies.

Transportation

We will need to limit the number of riders to ensure a consistent start for our school. Parent support in this regard would be extremely helpful. The blended model at the 6-12 level does provide us with some latitude, but a number of those students self transport. While on the bus we will adhere to WI Dept of Health guidelines, which to date include masks for all students riding and spaced 6 feet apart when not in the same household.

STUDENT HEALTH AND SAFETY

Appropriate face coverings are to be worn by students, per WI DHS guidelines. This would include entering and exiting the building, walking through hallways, and in spaces where a physical distance of 6 feet could not be maintained. It is the district's intent to find spaces where students can be without a mask for periods of time.

Students will also be provided mini lessons on how to properly wash their hands, sanitize if hand washing stations are unavailable, and review the CDC guidance to stop the spread of germs.

STUDENT ABSENCE

Families are required to self-monitor their students prior to them getting on the bus or dropping them off at school for symptoms related to COVID-19. These symptoms include a fever of 100.4, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, and the new loss of taste or smell. All families must self-certify that they are symptom-free each day utilizing a district issued form. The District will also complete symptom checks to include temperature taking when students are suspected of having possible COVID-19 symptoms.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The district is committed to providing additional opportunities to students when able and appropriate. After school clubs will continue if onsite requirements can be met and all sports in grades 9-12 will follow WIAA recommendations.

COMMUNICATION

We are committed to consistent communication with staff, families and community as plans adjust. We are committed to developing a plan that will eventually put all of our students back onsite in a safe and healthy manner.

To all of our staff members, students, parents, and community members...THANK YOU! This is not easy and it certainly is not what everyone wants. None of us asked to be in this position, but here we are and we'll take it on like we take everything else on in this school district...with an incredible amount of pride to ensure we are doing the best we can for students and families.