

Bridge Academy Safe In-Person School Plan: 2022-2023

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Priorities
Fall
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Remote learning is not offered in the 2022-2023 school year except for school nurse-approved Covid-related reasons (e.g. a student has tested positive). All Covid positive students who must isolate will be given work to complete through Google Classroom and may be invited to join Google Meets classes at the discretion of each of their teachers. ● Mask wearing was made optional in March of 2022. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Masks will be given to any staff or students who ask for one ○ Not allowing gators or other types of unapproved masks ○ Regularly reminding staff and students about the proper wearing of masks (e.g. over both nose and mouth). ● Our plans are flexible to allow for adjustments due to transmission rates in the community and state guidance. For example, in order to prioritize the health and safety of our community, we reserve the right to require mask-wearing based on the rates of transmission in our area. ● We prioritize the vaccination and boosting of all community members by educating staff and families about the importance of vaccinations and boosters.
Temporarily Choosing Not to Participate
NA
School Liaison, Communication Plans, and Data Collection

- Rachel Allison, school principal, will act as School Liaison, with support from Tyrone Elliott, Director, and Danielle Douglas, the school nurse.
- We communicate news of every positive case in our community with all staff, families and students while maintaining the confidentiality of the affected person.
- All communications for staff are done through email, text and ParentSquare notifications.
- We communicate with families through email, texting, ParentSquare notifications, mail, social media and phone in English and Spanish when possible.
- Communication with students is made in-person in school and through Google Classroom messages, emails, ParentSquare notifications, social media and texts.
- We will hold virtual family meetings throughout the year any time there is a significant policy change, such as the renewal of masking requirements.
- We keep families updated about school events through email, texts, and ParentSquare notifications once a week; additional emails, texts, handouts, social media posts and mailings will be sent any time critical information regarding policies, protocols, or health data changes. All emails are also archived and available on our website.
- Families receive texts, emails, messages on Google Classrooms and social media, and letters home through students about changed policies.
- Plans are made easily accessible on our website, communicated through email, text, and social media and sent home with students and through mail.
- The school nurse, administration and secretaries all have access to a Health Documentation spreadsheet where we communicate news of students who we have learned are sick, whether or not they need to quarantine or test, and what the family's and staff's next steps should be (e.g. grant the student access to remote learning, offer virtual tutoring, etc.)

Operation Plan

Facilities

- Floor markings remain in the halls and cafeteria to ensure appropriate traffic patterns.
- An isolation room has been identified for those experiencing symptoms.
- The isolation room has an air purifier.
- Stop the Spread, mask wearing and hand washing signs are placed in classrooms, hallways, bathrooms and offices at levels accessible to all.
- Hand sanitizer dispensers are easily accessible throughout the school.
- Bathrooms and high-touch areas are cleaned multiple times a day; a log is kept of all bathroom cleaning times.

Daily Operations

- All students will attend in-person unless when required to isolate due to a positive Covid test.
- In order to allow for non-academic social time and learning, multiple after school clubs and sports are offered.
- The school is prepared to adjust plans based on health indicators and guidance from health officials.
- The school works with the state and federal agencies to secure the necessary funding for operating safely and with academic rigor.

Child Nutrition

- All students are offered free breakfast and lunch. Breakfast is served in classrooms. Spaces are designated in the cafeteria during lunch for each cohorted group. All meals comply with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's regulations and policies for school meals.
- All meals served are counted and claimed according to National School Lunch and Breakfast program guidelines.

Transportation

- All eligible students are offered transportation to and from school following the guidelines set forth by the host district.
- The school will supply the bus drivers with masks for any students who want one

Health Practices and Protocols

- Students are educated on health expectations in a variety of ways: through emails and mailings home; through signs throughout the building; through direct instruction by teachers, administrators and the school nurse
- Staff, students and families receive instruction and reminders about important health protocols including but not limited to:
 - Frequent hand washing and use of sanitizer
 - Cough and sneeze etiquette
 - Enhanced cleaning and disinfection of surfaces
- Supplies of health, cleaning and disinfecting products, including extra masks, spray bottles, hand sanitizer, and paper towels are readily available
- Immunizations and health assessments are required; the school works with families to ensure that they are completed in a timely fashion.

Reporting Illnesses and Addressing Vulnerable Populations

- We communicate news of every positive case in our community with all staff, families and students while maintaining the confidentiality of the affected

person.

- Every communication of a positive case also includes information on how to get tested and vaccinated.
- Known cases of COVID-19 are reported to the local health department by the school nurse.
- Families and staff are reminded of the symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and asked to perform self-assessments prior to leaving for school.
- Students who have not tested positive for Covid but who may have minor symptoms are encouraged to attend school wearing a mask.
- Decisions about when to allow a staff member or student to return to school will follow CDC criteria for those who have had COVID-19.

Social Distancing

- Adjustments to social distancing practices will be made as necessary based on guidance from the CDC and DPH.

Use of Face Coverings, Masks, and Face Shields

- Mask wearing has been optional at Bridge Academy since March of 2022.
- Masks are provided to any staff member or student who would like one.
- The school reserves the resume required mask-wearing based on local transmission rates and the advice of the state, CDC and/or local DPH .

Health Monitoring Plan

Planning and Distribution of Information

- Protocols for the monitoring of symptoms of staff and students will include: allowing all students who ask to see the nurse to do so, sending all students who exhibit any symptoms of COVID-19 to the nurse, isolating students who exhibit symptoms in a room and calling for a ride home immediately, supporting the families of students with symptoms in getting tested and reporting results, monitoring the attendance of staff and students through phone calls and texts to determine if the absence is related to COVID-19, communication with the local health department about cases, documenting all health concerns on an internal Health Form spreadsheet, and communicating information about any positive cases among staff and students in a way that complies with relevant privacy and health laws.

Containment Plan

- Should a staff member or student show signs or symptoms of COVID-19 they will be offered a test in school.
- If there is a member of the school community with a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis we will:

- immediately notify the local health department.
- communicate with our response team of administrators and nurse in order to appropriately inform the school community
- An isolation room has been identified and will contain an air purifier. A second room is available should it be needed.
 - Any staff or student with symptoms in school will be tested by the nurse. Symptoms that will determine this include but may not be limited to: a fever of 100 or higher; difficulty breathing; persistent cough.
 - The school nurse follows up with the family of students who have tested positive through phone calls and emails until it is deemed appropriate for the child to return to school.
- CDC cleaning/disinfecting procedures are followed when a case of COVID-19 is confirmed in the school.

Cancellation of Classes, Remote Learning, and Reopening Plan

- In keeping with state guidelines, the school does not foresee canceling classes or moving to remote learning at any time. However, we will continue to follow state, DPH and CDC guidelines following best practices.
- All students have been given a chromebook to bring between school and home and students are trained from the first day of school to become proficient and comfortable with the use of email, Google Classroom and Google Meets so that any transition to online learning is immediate and smooth for students who have tested positive and must isolate.
- Our maintenance crew continues to clean all high touch areas several times a day.

Future Planning for Remote Blended Learning

- All students attend school in-person this year, with the exception of those who have been told to stay home by our nurse because they have tested positive for Covid.

Academics

Special Education

- All plans include students eligible for Special Education and 504 accommodations.
- Though programming decisions will not be made based on a student's disability, all protocols for educating students eligible for Special Education and 504 accommodations will take into consideration each student's developmental level and skills.
- Individual student progress toward IEP goals will be discussed at monthly meetings between the regular classroom and special education teachers. .
- Mask and face-covering protocols will be tailored to student's health and

service needs.

English Learners

- All plans include Multilingual Learners and will continue our sheltered language instruction program.
- All English Learners have access to the general education curriculum.
- All Spanish speaking families are assigned a Spanish speaking staff member to communicate all important information by phone and email and through Google Meets when necessary.
- English Learners who are also identified as eligible for Special Education continue to receive all services.

Family and Student Engagement

Family Support and Communication

- The school continues to comply with all federal and family engagement requirements including School Governance Councils and Title I requirements.
- Communications will continue to be sent to all families through email, text, ParentSquare notifications, social media and mail, letting them know about where they can sign up for vaccinations and boosters, health and safety protocols, and reminders and guidance about in-person instruction. Such communication will continue throughout the year.
- We notify all families and students when we learn of a positive case among staff or students.
- Periodic Google Meets are available in order to update families and allow them to ask questions in real time. School social workers attend these meetings in order to be available to address social/emotional needs.
- Spanish speaking families receive important communication from Spanish speaking staff by phone and through ParentSquare notifications.
- All important information is posted on our website and on social media sites.
- We regularly survey students and families about their needs, concerns, and suggestions.
- We invite students and families to participate on such committees as Culture and Climate and the Governing Council; meetings are offered in-person and online and in the evenings for convenience.

Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and Mental Health

- The first several days of school consist of orientations reviewing basic school protocols and expectations and giving students time to get to know and connect with peers and school staff.
- We begin each day with a Circle of Power and Respect which allows students time to share information and play a game before beginning the day. We give students opportunities to practice mindfulness and mindful meditation.

- Information on how to relieve stress and anxiety is shared with families through meetings, social media and our website.
- Social Workers meet with individual students and small groups.
- Our Social Emotional Learning Coordinator meets regularly with classes to teach emotional regulation strategies.
- Teachers invite school social workers to visit their classes to check in and share tools and strategies for social/emotional growth.
- The School Counselors work with students and families.
- We work with community partners such as Child Guidance and Full Circle Youth Empowerment to offer wrap-around services to students and their families.
- Staff share any concerns about student physical and emotional health with the school social workers and administration.
- We offer multiple non-academic opportunities for students to engage with staff and peers including through our robust after school programs.
- Staff are reminded often about available supports such as our Employee Assistance Plan.

After School Programming

- After school programming continues.

Career and Technical Education

- Not applicable

Staffing and Personnel

Certification and Personnel Planning

- All legal and regulatory requirements related to personnel, including EEOC guidance related to ADA and the COVID-19 pandemic, are followed.
- Our full staff roster is engaged; our full-time substitute teachers work daily to support staff and students.
- All participated in individual, year-end meetings with administration in order to gather information from all community members on actionable ideas to support a productive, positive school environment.
- TEAM mentoring and work on beginning teacher induction requirements continue.

Professional Development

- We hold bi-weekly whole-staff professional development to ensure and support the rigorous instruction of students.
- Training was held before school began and will continue throughout the year. Such training includes:

- Hygiene Practices
- Reporting Illnesses
- Supporting Social and Emotional Well-Being
- Instruction
- Behavior management
- Professional development on important topics such as instructional strategies, use of technology to support learning, behavior management, and social/emotional well-being continues.