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Earle School District (ESD) Ready for Learning Plan

MASK UPDATE:

Earle School District will continue to wear masks and social distance until the end of the school year.

#BulldogsStrongerTogether



Overview

Earle School District believes that learning is continuous and that students can learn anytime, anywhere. The wide-spread changes that we made as a nation due to the COVID-19 pandemic prompted us to put this belief into action. Although we are not back to our usual day-to-day activities, we must forge ahead to plan for our upcoming school year.

To be more prepared for learning this fall, we must implement strategies and best practices that focus on three key indicators for student success: blended learning, guaranteed and viable curriculum, and a student-focused approach (<http://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/divisions/communications/arkansas-ready-for-learning>).

The When Schools Reopen Document can be found here:

http://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/public/userfiles/Communications/Ready/Ready4Learning_whe_n_school_reopens.pdf.

Faculty, staff, parents and guardians have expressed concerns with safety and well-being, the great need to continue rigorous instruction, as well as the need to return to a sense of normalcy with face-to-face instruction.

At Earle School District, we believe in providing choices for students and families to decide what works best for them. Beginning in the 2020-21 school year, students in grades K-12 have the opportunity to either return for on-site instruction, or enroll full-time (by semester) in the district's Virtual Education Program as an alternative for face-to-face instruction. In June, parents were provided a survey link to provide feedback for the delivery method of instruction and will be required to complete an additional survey during on-site registration in July. A survey must be completed for each student requesting the Virtual Education Program along with an [ESD Family Commitment Form](#). This form will be reviewed by the principal, instructional facilitator, guidance counselor, student success coordinator and school-community liaison to determine if the student is a good candidate for virtual learning. and a follow-up conference will be scheduled.

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Both options for learning will require parents and guardians to become facilitators in the student learning process, ensuring that students are organized, responsible, engaged in productive struggle, and enjoy learning, all while maintaining sufficient pacing. However, for those selecting the virtual option, the parent becomes more of a co-teacher. This means that the parent/guardian works even more closely with teachers and staff to plan, organize, assess, and provide support to students.

Safety Protocols

Protocols for safety for on-site instruction include but are not limited to:

- entering the building in reduced numbers, with the recommended distance between each student
- screening for symptoms in students and staff upon entering the building
- providing a mask for each employee and student based on the most recent guidelines from the CDC
- providing hand sanitizer as students and staff as they enter the building
- frequent handwashing with soap and water
- disinfecting surfaces continuously throughout the day- door knobs, handles, surfaces, etc.
- an isolation room for students who are exhibiting symptoms while they wait to be picked up by parent/guardian
- communication with staff, students, and parents who have come into close/sustained contact with individuals with confirmed cases
- communicating with families, staff, and community regarding cases and the district's response

On-Site Instruction

Whole and small group instruction will be provided to students in their assigned classrooms and in other designated areas. Social distancing and CDC recommendations will be followed throughout the building--classrooms, gymnasium, restrooms, hallways, cafeteria, and playground. Students will attend full days with early dismissals on Wednesdays.

Learning Management System

ESD will utilize Google Classroom as our Learning Management System. All teachers will be required to set up a Google Classroom for each class/section. Faculty, staff, students, parents, and guardians will receive training to ensure the success of each student.

Connectivity (for Virtual Learning Option)

The district has contracted with Kajeet to provide Mobile hotspots for those that qualify and have limited WiFi access. The guest wifi access point will also be open for students who need access from 8 am - 8 pm Monday through Friday at designated buildings. Mobile hotspots will be utilized on the district's 4 buses in more remote locations as needed.

Curriculum that Includes K-12 Blended Learning and Diagnostic Assessments for K-8

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ESD will provide a guaranteed and viable curriculum that includes blended learning (K-12) and diagnostic assessments (K-8).

Faculty and staff will be using the school's grade level curriculum to prepare and deliver instruction for all students. Lessons and activities will be student centered and designed with the needs of the students as the focus for learning. Standard grading practices will apply to all assignments.

Teachers will also administer NWEA assessments in K-8 to gauge mastery of the content being taught. Testing dates will be communicated with virtual students along with necessary logistics as soon as decisions are made.

Monitoring of Learning

Student absences

DESE has amended the definition of an "absence" to reflect remote, off site, and virtual learning. A student is absent if the student is not:

1. present for onsite instruction provided by the district,
2. participating in a planned district-approved activity, or
3. engaged in scheduled instruction at an off-site location, including remote learning.

Checking in for Virtual Students

It is very important that students log in daily so that staff are able to monitor engagement and complete a wellness check. Students will need to check in with their teacher or designated staff each day. Administrators and support staff will follow-up with students not checking in. If a student fails to connect, a home visit will be made by school staff and/or a resource officer on the 3rd day the student misses logging in. If a student is having log-in issues, this is the responsibility of the student and family to notify the teacher.

Virtual Engagement

After completing a wellness check, teachers will evaluate students on engagement with the work and the completion of assignments. Levels of engagement and work completion will be reported weekly. For students who are not engaging in the work, staff will provide support either face to face or through Zoom.

Grading

Essential standards and competencies for each quarter will be mapped out. In addition to completing the work, teachers will measure student proficiency of these standards. Students will be given multiple opportunities to demonstrate mastery.

Administrators and instructional facilitators will monitor lessons and student work for grade-level rigor. Our expectation is that all students engage in grade-level or above work. Support will be provided to increase rigor for those teachers that need it.

Blended Learning Training

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Faculty and Staff Training will be provided during professional development days prior to the start of school. Additional days will be provided as needed throughout the year.

Faculty and staff will be provided with ongoing training and support that will include but is not limited to:

- Delivery of Instruction
- Student engagement
- Technology - the use of Promethean Boards, Google Classroom, Zoom, recording and posting instructional videos
- Reporting systems - eSchool
- Curriculum and planning
- Implementing best practices
- Self-Care
- Trauma informed practices
- Social and emotional needs of learners

Other support will be provided as needs are identified.

Blended Learning Support for Families - Families will choose one training to attend. Training will be duplicated.

Elementary

August 17, 18

9:00-11:00 a.m., 1:00-3:00 p.m., 5:30-7:30 p.m.

August 8,19

9:00-11:00 a.m., 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Training and support for our parents and guardians are crucial to the success of this school year. Earle School District will provide training to families that is ongoing and will include but is not limited to:

- Technology
- Reporting systems
- Social emotional well-being
- Instructional practice
- Effective communication

Technology training will be provided in a small group setting, face-to-face over operating the technology, learning platforms such as Google Classroom and Zoom. Training will also include reporting platforms such as eSchool (HAC) and both social-emotional and instructional support. Training for students will also include utilizing the technology, learning platforms, social emotional health, and instructional support. A collection of videos and websites will be shared with parents as an additional resource as well. Students will utilize

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Google Classroom during on-site learning as well and students enrolled in the virtual learning program will be provided training on how to navigate the learning platforms. Other support will be provided as needs are identified.

Blended Learning Expectations for Students

August 24-September 4

Students will utilize Google Classroom and Zoom for instruction both on-site and off-site and will be expected to access resources in order to be successful. They will be expected to take an active role in their learning.

- Norms for Students - [ESD Family Commitment Form](#)
- Grading
- Attendance
- Log-ins and passwords for Google Classroom, IXL, Lincoln Learning, and other on-line resources
- Daily schedules and activities (a link to blended learning schedules for Elem and HS must be included)
- Technology training and taking care of devices
- Effective student to teacher communication
- Navigating the learning environment

Other support will be provided as needs are identified.

Effective Two-Way Communication

ESD is committed to ongoing communication with parents, students, and community members. Teachers will make daily contact with virtual students via phone call, text, email, and/or Zoom. Students who miss two days will be contacted by the teacher and/or building parent & community liaison. Regular communication will be posted on the district website and Facebook, and sent out by the parent and community building and district liaisons.

Communication will include phone calls, texts, emails and face-to-face (in person or via Zoom). Successful communication is a vital part of this process, therefore:

- Parents will share their needs and concerns with faculty and staff
- Faculty and staff will check in with parents regularly to ensure the completion of assignments. A suggested daily schedule and calendar for assignments will be provided.
- Parents will provide feedback (via surveys) to enable faculty and staff to monitor the effectiveness of the programs.
- Parents will have the opportunity to schedule conferences with their child(ren)'s teacher, via telephone, face-to-face, or utilizing the Zoom platform.
- District will communicate directly through the district Facebook page and notification system.

Setting the Stage for Virtual Learning

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Earle School District will provide families with the needed supplies and resources so that students will have what is needed for learning at home. These learning kits will be specific by grade and will include manipulatives, crayons, pencils, pens, and other supplies. We will replace supplies and provide resources as both an ongoing expectation and commitment to the learning process.

Families will make appointments prior to the start of school to come in for a face-to-face meeting with teachers and staff. These sessions may be one-on-one or in a small group and will allow staff to complete diagnostic assessments, set instructional goals for students, distribute technology, and demonstrate the learning platforms. Parents may also receive their student's learning kits and other resources during this time.

Expectations for Learning

Unfinished learning from the prior year will be addressed using the [Arkansas Playbook](#) along with district developed resources. Instructional Facilitators will guide the adjustment of current curriculum documents to address previous missed essential standards as identified on the standards mastery document on August 11. This adjusted curriculum will be used to address these deficit areas.

The district will organize official check points during mid-nine weeks reporting and report card times to determine if adjustments need to occur.

We want to ensure that students and parents understand fully what it takes for students to be successful. This includes creating balance, minimizing stress, time management, organization, completing assignments, and communication. Staff will provide guidance and support in these areas.

This plan is subject to change as we receive guidance from the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, Arkansas Department of Health, and Center for Disease Control.

[Notes 11/9/2020](#)

Data is still being collected.

Plan going forward

Option 1: Leave as is

Option 2: Leave as is with Wednesday as all day professional development/curriculum

Option 3: A/B Schedule with Wednesdays as all day professional development/curriculum

Option 4: 2:00 dismissal

All data should be firm by 12/4/2020.

High School will call every parent by 11/19/2020

Tentatively meet Monday, November 23 at 3:30 p.m.

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April 5, 2021

We reviewed the plan and agreed to keep it as is through the end of May.

We will release a Public Service Announcement in conjunction with the city regarding Covid-19 guidance before April 15, 2021.

We will meet regarding the plan by the end of May.