

Aug. 6, 2020

Dear Frontier Families,

**“Learning is our Superpower...”** that is our theme for the 2020-2021 school year. Each of our students and each one of you have shown your hero status over the past several months! All of us at Frontier are excited to fly back into learning with our students, with our parents, and with our community. We will continue to don our superhero capes and help all our mighty Eagles’ don their own capes to take flight into learning. While our reopening will be different this year, we are excited to partner with each of you as we work together to provide your children with an outstanding year of learning.

Yesterday, all parents received information from the Superintendent regarding more specific reopening plans for elementary, middle, and high school students. If you didn’t not receive that email or wish to review D20’s plan you find it at the following: <https://www.asd20.org/return-to-school>. We are excited to share some updated information about how Frontier Elementary School will be reopening to in-person learning in the fall. Please note that this email is lengthy, so please make sure that you are reading through it carefully. Hopefully, this will help put your mind at ease regarding in-person learning AND help inform your decision about your child returning to Frontier in-person or beginning the year online through Journey K8.

If you have questions after reading this e-mail, please reach out to either one of us:

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## **CURRENT PLANS FOR FALL RE-OPENING**

Guided by information and orders from the governor, the El Paso County Health Department (EPCHD), the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), and District Twenty, we have begun planning for the fall. In order to maintain the greatest safety possible for our students, here is what you can expect at Frontier Elementary.

### **1. ARRIVAL and DEPARTURE**

- School Hours for Frontier: 8:15 a.m. – 3:15 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays.
- Wednesday school hours will be 10:15 a.m.-3:15 p.m. as all D20 schools will be on a 2-hour delayed start schedule on Wednesdays. [\*The 2-hour delayed start Wednesdays will begin Sept. 2.\*](#)
- **There will not be students playing on the playground in the morning this year.** Students will have “soft entry” between 8:00 – 8:15 a.m. (10:00-10:15 a.m. on Wednesdays). This means students arrive on campus between these times, enter through their designated entry point, and walk to their classroom. Once in the classroom, students will wash hands first. Parents will be asked to say their goodbyes outside.
- Students will have a designated entry point based on grade level (Staff will be out to help guide for the first few weeks):
  - Kindergarten will enter through the kinder doors in the front of the school (same as last year)
  - 1<sup>st</sup> graders will enter through the doors on the east side (by kinder playground)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> graders will enter through the south doors nearest the art portable
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will enter through the south doors nearest the PK portable
  - 4<sup>th</sup> graders will enter through the west doors nearest the playground
  - 5<sup>th</sup> graders will enter through the west doors nearest the cafeteria (same as last year)
- Students arriving later than 8:15 a.m. will need to enter through the front doors.
- School will end at 3:15 p.m. for all students. Students will leave through the same door in which they entered in the morning.
- Inclement weather procedures:
  - Arrival: Students will follow the same procedures for arrival as listed above.
  - Dismissal: Details on this procedure will be shared in the coming weeks once it is finalized.

## 2. JOURNEY K8 vs FRONTIER IN-PERSON

- If you choose the online option provided by Journey K8, you will be committing to one quarter at a time. To learn more, please visit <https://journey.asd20.org/Pages/default.aspx> for more information. On their site you will then find a link for online parent information sessions and the enrollment process link for the program. You can also email the principal, Donna Heinrich, at [donna.heinrich@asd20.org](mailto:donna.heinrich@asd20.org).
- Journey K8 has a comprehensive program. ***The registration deadline for Journey K8 is Aug. 12.***
- If you choose Journey K8, your child will still have a spot at Frontier. You may choose to come back to Frontier for in-person learning at each quarter.
- Journey K8 will be reviewing IEPs or 504s to determine if services can be provided for individual students through Journey K8.

## 3. CLASSROOMS/COHORTS

- Students will remain in and travel with their cohorts (homeroom classrooms) throughout the day. Cohorts will be typical numbers or smaller, depending on number of students enrolled for in-person learning. As we have families that choose Journey K8, the online learning option, that may reduce class sizes for the 20-21 school year.
- Students will have their own personal supplies (pencil pouch or pencil box/etc.) and will not share with their classmates. As elementary schools have done the past few years, the school will purchase and provide all student school supplies so parents will pay the supply fees per grade levels (those amounts will be shared prior to the start of school). Parents will need to supply a backpack, a lunch box, a water bottle and face masks for their children.
- Desks will be distanced (from one another) as much as possible in the classroom. In preschool and kindergarten classrooms, where spacing may be more difficult, plexiglass dividers/sneeze guards will be in place on tables.

## 4. SPECIALS

- Frontier specials will remain the same this year (PE, Music, Art, Spanish).
- Specials will happen on a 3-week rotation schedule. So, for example, the 1<sup>st</sup> grade classes will enjoy art classes for the first 3 weeks, then will enjoy PE for the next 3 weeks, etc. This will allow specials teachers to teach a unit of study during each rotation and limits the cohorts with which they will interact during each day.
- The specials teachers will come to the classrooms or take students outside for their lessons.

## 5. BREAKFAST:

- Breakfast will be a Grab and Go style on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays.
- **On late start days (each Wednesday and any weather delayed starts) breakfast will not be served.**
- Students wanting breakfast will pick up a bag on the west side right outside the cafeteria door by the picnic tables. If there is inclement weather, they will still pick up their breakfast bags at the cafeteria door.
- They will take their bag into class with them and eat at their desk.
- The student's desk will be cleaned after they finish eating.

## 6. LUNCH:

- Students will have 2 options if purchasing a school lunch: a hot and a cold option. Those options will be listed on the school lunch menu. There will be a vegetarian option available each day.
- Lunch will be a Grab and Go style for students to come through a line and pick up their order. There will be markers on the floor for students to follow and condiments will be given to students by the adults.
- There will be designated times for cohorts to enter the cafeteria.

- There will be marked guidance in the cafeteria for students, directing them on how to get their grab and go bags. Sodexo, our food service provider, will also provide a training video for students on how to move through the cafeteria.
- Students will be eating in their classrooms.
- Recess will occur after lunch. During lunch recess, students will be with their cohort, and they will play in a designated “recess zone”.
- The recess time after lunch will allow our custodial staff to clean all desks and chairs prior to students returning to classrooms.

**7. FACE COVERINGS** (Per EPCHD, CDPHE, and District Twenty Guidelines)

- Masks are **required for all students** to attend in-person learning; however, students will have several “breaks” from mask-wearing throughout the day in a safe and controlled environment. All masks need to be school appropriate/follow dress code guidelines and we encourage parents to send an extra mask in the backpack each day for their student. Per county and state guidelines, students and staff must wear a mask during the following: Entering and exiting the building, while walking in the hallways, while using the restroom, while accessing D20 transportation, and during safety drills. Students must also put on/wear a mask when directed by school staff for safety reasons.
  - A safe time to take a break may include the following: When students are with their cohort and appropriately socially distanced within the classroom; not talking or interacting with others (such as silent reading time) or outside while maintaining appropriate social distance.
  - Mask breaks will be directed by school staff and will occur frequently throughout the day.
- Staff are required to wear face masks/shields in the presence of students, other staff members and adults.

**8. SOCIAL DISTANCING**

- Per EPCHD and CDPHE guidelines, social distancing will be implemented to the greatest extent possible at all times.

**9. CLEANING, HAND WASHING, HAND SANITIZING**

- The district has supplied schools with hand sanitizer and touch-free hand sanitizer stations that will be installed around the school for students to use.
- Students will be asked to wash hands at the following times:
  - When they enter the building
  - Before and after recess
  - Before and after lunch and snack
  - After using the restroom
  - Other times as needed throughout the day
- Students will be allowed to use hand sanitizer throughout the day as needed and/or guided to do so.
- We know that hand washing is the best option for cleaning hands, and we will do this to the greatest extent possible.
- All classrooms will be supplied with cleaning supplies that are safe to be used around students.
- The district has provided specific guidelines and protocols for cleaning and disinfecting areas throughout the day.
- Cleaning will be done by the adults throughout the day using soapy water or a mixture of alcohol and water and a microfiber cloth.
- Frontier will disinfect/sanitize all classrooms, and other spaces used by staff and students every night in preparation for school the next school day.

## **10. RECESS**

- Students will have two recesses/day: a 15-minute lunch recess and one additional recess with their classroom teacher.
- Students will remain with their cohort in a designated playground or grass area zone. Cohorts will rotate through the assigned playground zones on a regular basis.

## **11. BATHROOMS**

- Students will be able to use the restroom when necessary. Each grade level will have a designated bathroom that students will be encouraged to use.
- Students will wear masks.
- They will be taught to social distance in the hallway when others are using the restroom or washing hands.
- Students will be taught proper hand washing procedures.
- Kindergarten students will be able to use the restrooms inside their classrooms. Preschool students will have access to the restroom in the preschool classroom.

## **12. HALLWAYS**

- Students will socially distance while walking in the hallways.
- Students will be taught to walk single file and on the righthand side of the hallways.

## **13. VISITORS**

- Essential visitors must self-screen for symptoms, wear facial coverings, practice social distancing, and have their driver's license with them when they access the building.
- Visitors will not be allowed in the lunchroom or in walking students to class.
- Classroom/school volunteers will not be permitted onsite, as stated in the D20 Return to School Plan. We LOVE our volunteers, but we want to make sure we are keeping kids as safe as possible and will invite volunteers back in as soon as we are able.

## **14. INTERVENTIONS/SPED/TAG:**

- These services will continue to be provided to students who qualify. Students will be socially distanced, and they will be wearing masks or face shields when working with service providers.

## **15. REMOTE/eLEARNING (should schools need to close at any time throughout the year)**

If your choice is in-person learning at Frontier:

- In the event we move from in-person learning to remote/eLearning, we will be using Schoology as our main platform for student and parent log in. Please note that we will still be using other programs within Schoology (Seesaw, Google Slides, etc.), but the main eLearning platform will be Schoology.
- One of our main goals during the first few weeks of school will be to teach students how to utilize Schoology to access learning.
- Another goal will be to provide training for parents on how to use Schoology. This will happen during our virtual Back-to-School Night.

## **16. SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL HEALTH**

- The entire Frontier staff believe in the social/emotional well-being of our students, staff and community. Please know that when your students return, the focus for the first several weeks will be on building relationships with teachers and classmates, making sure students have effective social/emotional strategies in place, and having some fun.
- We will continue to utilize our RULER curriculum and strategies.
- A variety of resources are available to support families with various needs.

### **17. Back to School Night/Meet the Teacher**

Frontier will host virtual Back to School Information/Meet the Teacher sessions. Specific information, including dates & times, will be sent out next week.

### **18. BACK TO SCHOOL WEEK: August 24-28**

In order to help all of our students become more comfortable with their new teachers, classrooms, and the new procedures they will follow, we are having a “soft start” during the week of August 24. Small groups of students will attend each day on August 24 – August 28. This will allow the teacher to get to know their students and build positive relationships in a small setting. Siblings will be grouped together.

- **August 24-26**
  - Lunch will be served daily, and transportation routes will run as normal.
  - **August 24:** (1/3 of each classroom based on household will attend from 8:15-3:15)
  - **August 25:** (1/3 of each classroom based on household will attend from 8:15-3:15)
  - **August 26:** (1/3 of each classroom based on household will attend from 8:15-3:15)
  - ***The specific schedule of last names and who will attend on which days will be released once our enrollment is finalized.***
- **Thursday, August 27 and Friday, August 28, will be Student Testing Days**
  - Breakfast and lunch will NOT be served and transportation routes will NOT run.
  - Students will attend by half day sessions only. In small groups, students will be assessed using a variety of assessment tools. These assessments will allow our classroom teachers to determine small, differentiated instructional groups in the areas of math and reading. Students will attend August 27 **or** August 28 for a half-day only. Two daily sessions will run 8:15 – 11:15 a.m. or 12:15 – 3:15 p.m. The specific appointment schedule will be released once our enrollment is finalized.

### **19. FRONTIER TOWN HALL Q/A**

- Miss Garnhart will be hosting town hall Q/A sessions via Microsoft Teams to review the information found in this document and answer any questions you have regarding the start of the 20-21 school year.
  - Tuesday, August 11, 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.
  - Wednesday, August 12, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.
  - Friday, August 14, 8:00 - 9:00 a.m.
- Links to join the meeting will be sent out on the day of each meeting. Each meeting will have a unique link to join. ***All participants will be asked to have their camera turned off and microphone muted. This will assist us in ensuring that everyone is able to hear clearly.*** There will be an opportunity for participants to ask questions using the Chat feature of MS Teams.

### **20. CLUBS, ACTIVITIES & FIELD TRIPS**

- At this time we are suspending in person clubs, activities, and field trips.

We know this is a lot of information, and we thank you for taking the time to review each of the items listed above. Please join us during one of the Town Hall Q/A sessions, or please feel free to email us with your questions. We are excited to begin this new school year with your children and with each of you. Please remember, ***Learning is our Superpower*** so we will be here to help each Eagle take flight this year!

Our Warmest Regards,

Kelly Garnhart, Principal  
Aimee Crespin, Assistant Principal