

# Grainger County Schools

## Back to School Plan 2020-21

### Achieving Safety and Success Together

**Beginning September 8, 2020**, all students attending school with the traditional option will attend Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday each week in person. **All students**, both traditional and virtual, will **attend school virtually on Wednesdays**. “Virtual Wednesdays” will be **instructional days** for both traditional and virtual students. For more information, go to our Grainger County website (<http://www.grainger.k12.tn.us/>) and system Facebook page. Parents can also call 865-828-3611 or your child’s school for information.

#### PRIORITIZING HEALTH AND SAFETY

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Grainger County Schools ("District") has been exploring different and reasonable ways to provide services to all students. The District has worked with state and local agencies, including our local health department, to draft and implement guidelines moving forward regarding cleaning, screening, etc. Though the District and its agents will work hard to implement and abide by those guidelines, neither the guidelines themselves nor even recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") would ever allow the District to guarantee an environment that is entirely free of COVID-19 related risks.

By allowing your child to return to school, you must understand that your child's attendance will require him/her to physically interact with the District's staff members, other students, and even some limited volunteers. As such, despite all reasonable efforts on behalf of the District, physical interaction with the public at large may pose some unavoidable risks to you, your child, and your family due to the COVID-19 pandemic. While the District hopes that everyone remains safe and healthy during this trying time, we also want to remain both honest and transparent with our parents about the very real risks posed by COVID-19 both inside and outside of our schools.

Our system safety recommendations and plans include, but are not limited to:

- Increased cleaning and disinfection of all buildings and buses daily;
- **Face coverings or masks for all students and staff (PreK-12) are required** in common areas such as hallways, cafeteria lines, and gyms in school buildings and on buses unless contraindicated for health reasons.
- Masks will be **provided** by school system for both students and staff;
- **Masks are recommended for classrooms and will be required for staff and students in classrooms where social distancing of six feet or more is not possible and for certain instructional settings and ADA requirements;**
- Requirements for masks may be **adjusted** as indicated by traditional or blended schedule, number of active cases and other health updates.
- Increased social distancing as feasible in classrooms, hallways, buses;
- Temperature checks and health monitoring of staff and students daily at school. Temperature checks will not take place at the bus stop.
- Not allowing anyone with fever or symptoms to remain at school;
- Frequent hand washing and access to hand sanitizer for all classes; Hand sanitizing stations are being installed in all schools.
- Reduced class interactions and hallway traffic, group gatherings and movement throughout the buildings;
- Water fountains will **not** be used. Touch free filtered water stations will be provided for students to fill their water bottles.
- Access to schools will be limited to essential personnel and students. If there are extenuating circumstances that necessitate a parent or guardian entering the school, approval must be given by the school administrator.
- Any visitors approved by school administrators will be **required** to wear mask, have temperature check and answer health screening questions;
- Other various safety measures.

## TRANSPORTATION

- All buses will run on a regular schedule.
- Students will be assigned a seat.
- **Masks are required for all students grades PreK-12 on buses** (unless contraindicated for medical reason) and will be provided.
- Buses will be sanitized after morning and afternoon routes and hand sanitizer will be provided on buses.

Watch for more information and updates available in next week's Grainger Today and on our Grainger County website (<http://www.grainger.k12.tn.us/>) and system Facebook page. Parents can contact the child's school or call 865-828-3611.

