



School District of Tomahawk

September Opening Update

We are committed to keeping students and families informed and engaged as much as possible as we work to reopen our school in the fall. Throughout this process, we have shared that reopening will require a flexible and fluid approach as the information we need to make informed decisions becomes available knowing the information may change between now and September, or even after the school year has started.

As we prepare, I would like to share several important updates regarding adjusted dates and learning model for the start of the school year.

- **All students and staff will be required to wear face-covering at the start of the school year on buses and in schools.** If a medical provider has indicated your student should not wear a face-covering, please contact our School nurse Trina Armstrong. Face-coverings must be appropriate and meet school dress code requirements. Face coverings will follow all state mandates, and will be evaluated each quarter.
- **PK4 - 5 grade students attending in-person classes will begin the school year in a traditional learning model with 5 days per week in-person instruction/attendance.**
- **6-12 students attending in-person classes will begin the year in a hybrid learning model attending school with their assigned cohort.** Students assigned to Cohort A will attend in-person classes on Monday and Wednesday, remote learning classes (completing coursework remotely) on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday; Students assigned to Cohort B will attend in-person classes on Tuesday and Thursday and remote classes (completing coursework remotely) on Monday, Wednesday, Friday. Note: All 6-12 students attend remote learning classes on Fridays. Building Principals will send out assigned cohorts to parents. Cohorts will be assigned so students in the same household will attend classes on the same days.
- **The District will implement a gradual start to school** to allow for staff preparations and training, student transition time to new building areas, and additional opportunities to provide social and emotional support.

- **Families seeking to opt-in to full-time Virtual learning due to health concerns need to complete this [form](#) by no later than August 17:
(If you have already completed and turned in the form you do not need to reapply)**
We need this information to notify the District your student will not be attending in-person classes to provide accurate student information as we prepare instruction in the buildings. Additional information about the Virtual Program can be found on the [District website](#)

More details regarding the above and other changes are available below and updates will continue to be shared as we move forward with our preparations to reopen. Learning models will be evaluated on a quarterly basis.

I share this information with you without having all the answers, knowing it will cause questions and possibly concerns. Please know, we will continue to provide timely, comprehensive, and factual information to our students, families, and staff.

While it is clear that my 39th first day of school as an educator will be unlike any I've experienced before, I am confident that our team of exceptional educators and staff will continue to provide your student with exceptional learning opportunities. Thank You!

Sincerely,

Terry Reynolds
District Administrator
School District of Tomahawk

4K - 5th grade Elementary Students

In Person Open Houses are cancelled. Please watch for further information from your school building principals.

4K-5 Elementary students attending in-person classrooms will start the year with Traditional Classroom Learning, five days per week.

The decision has been made based on the belief that most elementary students learn best with direct instruction in a traditional classroom environment. We will also be preparing our elementary students to be prepared to change to remote learning. We need to create an elementary remote learning option for our elementary students. We anticipate there will be a need to move to remote learning quickly by

classroom, grade level, or building. This approach will allow the district to provide continuous and common instruction at any given time.

Families should prepare for notice of remote learning for an extended period similar to weather-related closings.

Grading will continue to be traditional system for all students.

6-12 Grade Students

- **Grades 6-12 attending in-person classrooms will start the year in Hybrid Model Learning. Building Principals will send out assigned cohorts to parents. Cohorts will be assigned so students in the same household will attend classes on the same days.**

Monday & Wednesday:

- Cohort A attend in-person classes **(Principals will contact parents of assigned Cohorts)**
- Cohort B attend classes remotely **(Principals will contact parents of assigned Cohorts)**
- Families with children that have two different names who prefer to have all children attend school on the same two days, please contact your building principal

Tuesday & Thursday:

- Cohort A attend classes remotely **(Principals will contact parents of assigned Cohorts)**
- Cohort B attend in-person classes **(Principals will contact parents of assigned Cohorts)**
- Families with children that have two different names who prefer to have all children attend school on the same two days, please contact your building principal

Friday:

- All 6-12 students remote learning
- Facilities deep cleaned and sanitized
- Teacher collaboration, Professional Development, prep, Student/parent contacts

Families should prepare for notice of remote learning for an extended period similar to weather-related school closings.

This model is being implemented in tandem with increased safety, disinfecting, and distancing procedures and protocols.

Grading will return to the traditional grading system for all students

Gradual School Start

- **August 17-19**
New Teacher Training
- **August 24-27**
Staff COVID-19 Safety and Procedure Training
Staff Professional Development
Virtual Program Student Orientation (**Only for students signed up for total Virtual Program**)
- **September 1-4**
Staff Instruction and Technology
Preparation and Collaboration
Instruction begins for fulltime for **6-12 Tomahawk Virtual Learning program** students on **Sept. 1**
- **September 8**
First day of school for students attending in-person classes for grades
4K – grade 5
All 6 grade and 9th grade attend in-person school orientation (Web and Link Crew)
No classes for Cohort A and B students in grades 7, 8, 10, 11 & 12 students.
Instruction begins for fulltime for **K-5 Tomahawk Virtual Learning program** students
- **September 9**
4K-5 students attend in-person classes
6-12 Cohort A attend in person classes
6-12 Cohort B no classes
- **September 10**
4K-5 students attend in-person classes
6-12 Cohort B attend in person classes
6-12 Cohort A attend remotely
- **September 11**
4K-5 students attend in-person classes
6-12 Cohort A attend remotely
6-12 Cohort B attend remotely

Enroll Your Student in Full-Time Learning

The District is committed to providing equitable education opportunities for our students. Knowing that a classroom setting may not be appropriate for all students this fall, we are developing a Virtual program option for students with health concerns.

To inform the district that your student will be opting into the virtual program for the 2020-21 School year, if you have not already done so, please complete this [form](#) and return to the school district by August 17. Additional information about the Virtual Program can be found on the [District website](#)

Face Covering Requirement

All students and staff will be required to wear a face-covering at the start of the school year. On buses and in the schools. The use of the face-coverings dramatically reduces the spread of all airborne diseases and is currently recommended by the CDC, Lincoln County Health Department, and the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

Wearing a face-covering and/or face shield may be new for some students. To assist in getting students ready for the start of school, we recommend families begin practicing now to prepare for this change. Remember to start out slow and to make this a fun task to prepare to return to school, similar to resetting bedtimes from summer to school hours. While face coverings are important, please remind students that good hand hygiene and not touching faces or others are things we all should be practicing.

If a medical provider has indicated your student should not wear a face-covering, please contact your building principal.

Face-covering requirements will be re-evaluated each quarter.

Meeting the Needs of All Students

Students with Individual Education Plans and 504 Accommodation Plans will continue to receive services as indicated in these plans. This may mean their schedule and/or remote learning may require additional accommodations or a different schedule than outlined above.

Families will be contacted individually by their teacher, school psychologist, case manager, or Pupil Services.

Transportation

Transporting students to school on buses and maintaining social distancing will be a challenge. Our goal is to have twenty four students or less on the bus. It is planned for students to sit one per seat unless riders are from the same household. Students are to sit at the windows allowing for 6 feet of separation between seats across the aisle. Most of the buses have high profile seat-backs, providing a barrier between seat rows. All adults and riders must wear a face-covering. Face-coverings must be appropriate and meet school dress code requirements.

Buses will be cleaned following each route using EPA registered chemicals for disinfecting with special attention paid to high touch areas. Information on bus routes, time information, will be available closer to the start of school.

Please contact the Tomahawk Bus Company if your student will not be using bus transportation to come or from school during the 2020-21 school year. This will allow us to accurately and safely schedule routes.

Meals

Taher Food Service Team has done a tremendous job serving grab-and-go meals during this pandemic crisis. Additional information will be shared regarding updated meal options for in-person and remote learning students as it becomes available.

Health & Safety Protocols

The Building and Grounds Department has a high standard for cleanliness and safety and remains committed to upholding these standards while increasing protocols with intensive cleaning practices. Enhanced cleaning protocols have been put in place as a result of COVID-19 and are based on local health and government guidelines.

Examples include:

- Increased air ventilations and circulation of outside air into buildings through HVAC systems.
- Daily and weekly cleaning protocols utilizing EPA registered chemicals for disinfection.
- Special attention is being placed to disinfect high-touch points including; doorknobs, countertops, light switches, restroom fixtures, desks, phones, etc.
- Enhanced areas of focus include restrooms, communal spaces, front desk and lobby areas.
- Shared objects are to be monitored and touched by only one individual before being placed in trash/recycling or sanitation bin.

- Some spaces not commonly used for classrooms may be utilized to allow for 6 feet of separation including cafeterias, gym spaces, and other classrooms.
- Outdoor spaces will be utilized as frequently as possible within the instructional day.
- Signage will be strategically placed throughout the building to remind individuals of good hand hygiene, proper handwashing, and symptoms of COVID-19

We will need to continue to evaluate and change protocols, procedures as well as learning models as new information is brought forward during these trying times. Thank you for your patience and support as we work to find solutions during the pandemic!