



Middleton School District Fall 2021 Plan for Continuous and Safe Operation for In-Person Learning

Middleton School District plans to return to school this fall for on-campus instruction. We ask that parents/guardians who have vulnerable students or other unique situations reach out to your respective administrator for possible exceptions to in-person attendance. Only students who have extenuating circumstances, who are approved by a committee will be allowed to participate in full-time online/remote learning with Idaho Digital Learning Alliance (IDLA). If a student has a confirmed case of COVID, or is required to be quarantined as a result of direct contact with a person with COVID, short-term virtual contact and schoolwork will be provided by the student’s teachers.

The COVID-19 pandemic is a dynamic situation and as a school district it is impossible to predict how it may affect our students, patrons, and operations. As such, if there is a needed adjustment to this plan, the superintendent will develop recommendations in coordination with health officials, teachers, parents, and other relevant groups. Recommendations will be communicated to the public and presented to the school board.

Though outside health agencies (SWDH, CDC, etc.) will be consulted, all decisions regarding Middleton students will be made with data that reflects actual impact on Middleton schools, staff, and students. The Middleton Board of Trustees remains committed to keeping all decision-making regarding our approach to COVID as a local decision.

The contact information for each administrator is listed below:

School	Administrator or Head Teacher	Email	Phone
Heights Elementary	Nichole Kristensen	nkristensen@msd134.org	(208) 585-3021
Mill Creek Elementary	Jessica Holman	jholman@msd134.org	(208) 585-3065
Purple Sage Elementary	Mark Hopkins	mhopkins@msd134.org	(208) 455-1148
Middleton Middle School	Diana Wold	dwold@msd134.org	(208) 585-3251
Middleton Academy	Glen Croft	gcroft@msd134.org	(208)779-4091
Middleton High School	Brian Rothe	brothe@msd134.org	(208) 585-6657

Mitigation Strategies

Stay home if you are sick!

Wearing your mask is optional (encouraged when the number of positive rates are high)

- Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer before putting on your mask.



- Put the mask over your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin.
- Fit the mask snugly against the sides of your face, slipping the loops over your ears or tying the strings behind your head.
- If you have to continually adjust your mask, it doesn't fit properly, and you might need to find a different mask type or brand.
- Make sure you can breathe easily.

Physical distancing (when positivity rates are high)

- Physical distancing will be maintained on buses/vans when reasonable.
- Daily class schedules may be altered to minimize student contact if positivity rates are high.

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette (at all times)

- Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing.
- Use tissues and throw them away.
- Wash your hands or use a hand sanitizer every time you touch your mouth or nose.

Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation

- Buses, classrooms, and frequently touched areas will be disinfected after transition times.
- Windows and doors will be propped open when permissible.

Contact tracing, collaboration and isolation/quarantine

- The school district will consider all recommendations from local health experts.
- Students and employees who test positive will be asked to stay home until symptoms are gone.
- Students and employees who have been in close contact (within 3 ft for 15 minutes or more) will be asked to stay home from school unless they have been vaccinated and show no symptoms, had a medically diagnosed case of COVID in the last three months and show no symptoms, or were wearing a face covering at the time of contact and show no symptoms.

Quarantining Process and Procedure

- Students and employees that test positive for COVID will need to stay home for 10 days from symptom onset or as directed by a medical professional or until doctor has released them to come back to school.
- Students and employees who have been in close contact (within 3 ft for 15 minutes or more) with a person with a confirmed case of COVID will be asked to stay home from school unless:
 - they have been vaccinated and show no symptoms
 - OR had a medically diagnosed case of COVID in the last three months and show no symptoms
 - OR were wearing a face covering at the time of contact and show no symptoms.
- Students who were in close contact and don't meet any of the exception criteria, as described above, would be allowed to return to school 7 days after the close contact occurred, unless symptoms have developed or they have tested positive, in which case



they will follow the process described above for a positive test. This would include extra-curricular participation.

- Additionally, for extra-curricular participation, if a student has had a confirmed case of COVID they will need to work together with their doctor and the district's athletic trainer to ensure that the student does not return to full activity before they are physically recovered sufficiently. The gradual return plan (3 days minimum) will be developed by the trainer, doctor's instruction, and coach and may include practices, competitions, etc. though minutes and activity level will be monitored.
- Students may continue to participate in both school and extracurricular activities if antigen tests (ex. BinaxNOW or other approved antigen tests) are taken daily through the quarantine period and show negative results each day and they are symptom free.
- School work will be provided, either online or in hard copy as determined by classroom teachers, for all students who are required to stay home due to COVID exposure.

Diagnostic and screening testing

- Middleton School District will not provide testing at school, but encourages parents and students who suspect they may be infected to be tested.

Follow your doctor and/or local health officials regarding vaccinations

- The school district encourages students, employees and community members to collaborate with, and follow, their doctor and local health department recommendations to determine the appropriateness of vaccinations for themselves and/or their children.

Accommodations for students with disabilities

- Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies will be made.
- These accommodations will be done in conjunction with the IEP team and any other stakeholders approved by the IEP team.

Students participating in extracurricular sports

- Middleton School District will adhere to requirements of IHSAA in determining policies and procedures associated with athletic participation in both practices and competitions.
- All students will be required to sign the "Assumption of Risk and Waiver of Liability related to COVID-19" document prior to participation.
- In order to return to activity student athletes who have had a positive COVID test must have a doctor's note certifying that the student is healthy enough to return and/or a plan for a gradual return to activity.

Students working with Athletic Trainer

- The district contracts with St. Luke's for training services and as such the trainer and training facilities are held to different expectations in order to receive the training services. Students working with the athletic trainer will be required to follow all participation requirements listed on the "Athletic Training Room (ATR) Policy for COVID-19 Considerations" found on the high school's athletic webpage under "Athletic Information."



Narrative

How is Middleton School District addressing and planning to address students' academic needs?

District staff utilizes state/local assessment results, attendance, teacher referrals, parent input, students not meeting grade level standards, GPA, etc. to determine recommendation for services. Teachers, counselors, administrators, and other district personnel meet regularly through team meetings, such as grade level/department data teams and or RTI/PBIS teams, to analyze student assessment data and place students in appropriate instructional groups. These teams meet regularly to discuss students at risk of failure to develop an action plan for placement and intervention. Teachers share information with parents during parent/teacher conferences, phone calls, and electronic communication (emails, text, Google Meet).

How is Middleton School District addressing and planning to address students' social, emotional, mental health, and other needs?

The district believes in prevention first and quick and effective intervention when needed. Student services department provides support to staff to address the social and emotional needs of students. To determine who needs these services, the same process and committee is utilized as mentioned in the previous paragraph. The district firmly believes that learning cannot take place unless we attend to students' overall well-being. Character Education, bullying prevention, suicide prevention, and other related activities are taught in the classroom by certified counselors, teachers, and student leadership groups. The district will cultivate safe, inclusive, and supportive environments. The district will seek to identify opportunities for students with disabilities to interact and receive needed support and interventions. Finally, the district will engage in a year-long professional development program regarding ACES and Trauma-Informed Practices.

How is Middleton School District addressing and planning to address staff members' social, emotional, mental health, and other needs?

Current measures include staff professional development through training. Middleton School District also has a staff wellness program that provides opportunities throughout the school year for staff to engage in social, emotional, mental and physical health offerings. As a district, we continue to share our Employee Assistance Program with staff and we have increased the number of days offered through our benefit package.

The process and timeline for review and revision of the plan:

The district sought feedback, via a survey, from stakeholders including district employees, community members, parents, students and the Middleton School District Board of Trustees. It is posted on the District's [COVID-19 website](#) and discussed in board meetings. This document will be reviewed by all stakeholders every 6 months in a similar process or earlier if conditions within the school district warrant a review.

SUMMARY

Middleton School District will continue to monitor any illness that is a significant threat to the wellness of our community and school district. While we understand that on occasion, there is



some risk associated with a physical return to school if a highly contagious illness with severe health consequences is present, we also understand that there is a significant risk to the education of students as well as lack of healthy relationships in our community if we are unable to return. The benefits of face-to face instruction and healthy relationships cannot be replicated in an online environment. Please don't hesitate to reach out to a member of the administration if you have any questions or concerns!

We ask that students and district employees be mindful of teachers and students who may be more susceptible or vulnerable to illness by exercising greater caution around such individuals (i.e., wearing a mask, maintaining physical distance, etc.)