



Cardinal Community Academy Reopening Plan 2020-2021

Cardinal Community Academy's mission is to serve student needs and achieve educational excellence. Students will have a positive learning environment that will give them the ability to become life-long learners, while encouraging responsibility, citizenship, honesty, integrity and respect between students and staff. Every student will have the opportunity to reach high academic goals within a broad, well-rounded curriculum. Community participation will aid in guiding students to reach their highest academic potential.

INTRODUCTION

The Health and Safety of all students and staff members while educating our students are our top priorities. We are a publicly funded charter school and must follow state mandates that affect education. With that in mind, we want to get back to business as usual with the necessary precautions to keep students and staff safe.

At CCA, we understand that families want to be back in school, educators know that the most effective learning environment is in-person, and we all understand that limiting social interactions among our children is detrimental to their mental health.

We are working hard to provide the positive and safe learning environment our children need and deserve, but we cannot do it without our community support. Your CCA team needs you to help us to have our most successful, healthy, and effective year ever.

PARENT AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Parents completed a survey that drove our staff discussions regarding the return to school in August. Overwhelming, families need to be back in school. The results of the survey are found on the CCA Website as well as linked [here](#). Please continue to utilize the website as your information hub!

KEY TERMS

- Cohort- a group of students that does not interact with other groups of students (cohorts) CCA will cohort grades K-2, 3-5, and 6-8.
- Touch points-areas that are commonly, communally touched; therefore increasing chance of exposure
- Synchronous learning-learning events in which a group of students are engaging in learning at the same time.
- Asynchronous learning-learning events that do not occur in the same place or at the same time.
- Face coverings - non-surgical mask or cloth face covering
- Symptom self check - a quick check for symptoms each morning to help keep everyone healthy
- Staff- all paid personnel of CCA

OUR APPROACH

At CCA we will continue to do what we do best and that is, support your student in a small-classroom environment while providing the Core Knowledge curriculum to prepare students for academic success.

CCA staff is prepared for more outdoor activities and instruction. CCA staff has removed fabric furniture and minimized fixtures in classrooms to allow for more distancing. Each classroom has cleaning supplies and hand sanitizer. All of these will help us decrease chances for transmission.

We will plan on in-person learning with a fluidity to move into remote learning if the district is forced to close due to Covid, if CCA must close due to COVID-19, or if a Cohort must close due to Covid. If CCA is closed due to weather, and we are in need of instructional hours, CCA may call a Remote Learning Day.

REMOTE LEARNING

When students cannot attend school in-person, due to Covid-19 restrictions, positive cases with the school or cohort, or if we need to make up instructional hours from other events, ie blizzards, Remote Learning will be utilized. All classrooms will use the Google Platform for remote classroom instruction. Teachers will present the Google classroom to parents at our Virtual Back to School Nights.

We know from our spring emergency closure that we can continue to focus on a high-quality, well-rounded time of instruction if we do have to close. Therefore, our Remote Learning Plan focus will have more synchronous learning opportunities throughout the day with greater rigor, required attendance, and a more typical grading approach. Our Remote Learning Plan will be explained in greater detail at your virtual Back to School night.

By utilizing a fluid approach to learning this year, we will be better equipped to handle the rolling stops and starts we are likely to encounter.

CONTINGENCY PLANS

If the CDE and/or state or county health officials advise school districts to take a more restricted approach due to increasing cases we will share plans with parents to do one or all of the following:

1. Decrease cohort sizes
2. Increase social distancing by utilizing other rooms and resources
3. Decrease mask breaks

To the best of my ability, I will give families as much time as possible to prepare for any of our contingency plans. Please remember that we are not always given time from the CDE or state/county health officials so remaining responsive to text messages and email is vital.

GRADE LEVEL INFORMATION

Elementary (K-5)

- Students will attend school for in-person learning.
- Prior to coming to school, parents will complete a symptom screener of their children.
- Please do not bring students before 7:20 am; students will not be allowed in the building through the main entrance.
- Students should not congregate before school and different entrances will be used. More details at Back to School Nights.
- Upon arrival, students will be asked to sanitize their hands.
- In order to minimize mixing of cohorts, students will have scheduled times to go to the restrooms and wash their hands.
- Per health guidelines, we will ask that students bring a clean face covering each day to use when they are indoors, but not in their cohort, for example, unscheduled restroom visits and After-School Care.
- Lunches should NOT need reheating. Microwaves are highly used touch points and will be limited or possibly removed from the lunchroom to decrease possibility of transmission.
- Classrooms will have additional cleaning supplies.
- Tables and desks will be spaced as far apart as possible.
- Fabric-covered furniture has been removed.
- When in small groups, students will face same direction
- Students will have multiple opportunities to learn and play outside. Please plan accordingly.
- Students will attend regular specials with less sharing of materials (when possible), hand washing before and after specials classes, and specials teachers will clean between classes.
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- Please utilize driveline in the afternoon unless other arrangements have been made, i.e. a scheduled meeting with your teacher or you are helping clean in the classroom.

Middle School (6-8)

- Students will attend school for in-person learning.
- Prior to coming to school, parents will complete a symptom screener of their children.
- Please do not bring students before 7:20 am; students will not be allowed in the building through the main entrance.
- Students should not congregate before school and different entrances will be used. More details at Back to School Nights.
- Upon arrival, students will be asked to sanitize their hands.
- In order to minimize mixing of cohorts, students will have scheduled times to go to the restrooms and wash their hands.

- Per health guidelines, we will ask that students bring a clean face covering each day to use when they are indoors, but not in their cohort, for example, unscheduled restroom visits and After-School Care.
- Lunches should NOT need reheating. Microwaves are highly used touch points and will be limited or possibly removed from the lunchroom to decrease possibility of transmission.
- Each student will have a chromebook assigned and should follow directions from their teachers as to bringing it to and from school every day.
- Classrooms will have additional cleaning supplies.
- Tables and desks will be spaced as far apart as possible.
- Fabric-covered furniture has been removed.
- Lockers have been removed; backpacks will stay in the classroom. More information will be shared during Back to School Night.
- When in small groups, students will face same direction
- Students will have multiple opportunities to learn and play outside. Please plan accordingly.
- Students will attend regular specials/electives with less sharing of materials (when possible), hand washing before and after specials classes, and specials teachers will clean between classes.
- Middle school students will be in a cohort together. Therefore, some electives might change slightly, i.e. music classes will be in the lunchroom or outside weather permitting.
- Please utilize driveline in the afternoon unless other arrangements have been made, i.e. a scheduled meeting with your teacher or you are helping clean in the classroom.

EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT SERVICES INFORMATION

Students with Disabilities

To help our families of students with disabilities plan for the fall of 2020-2021 school year, we want to offer some insight into how the special education department is approaching service delivery for our students.

For most of our students with IEPs, the current plan is for all special education services to be delivered while students are onsite. All families of students with IEPs will receive direct communication from their child's case manager prior to the first day of school to discuss the schedule for specific services to meet their child's learning needs for the upcoming school year.

We understand that there may be questions left unanswered at this time, but we assure families that students' services and instructional minutes will be met in a way that best meets the needs of individuals.

Additionally, teachers and support staff are prepared to develop individual contingency plans to support students and families with unique remote learning needs in the event that we need to return to full-time remote learning at any point during the 2020-2021 school year.

Please contact Emilee Klausner if you have questions at emileeklausner@re3j.com

English Language Development

English Language Development (ELD) services will continue during in-person and remote instruction.

Communication with families will remain a crucial part of student success.

CCA teachers will continue to follow Weld Re-3J and CDE's Identification of ELLs, assessment and enrollment procedures in accordance with state and federal guidance.

CCA teachers and/or interventionists will continue to monitor your child's English language development and work with you to understand their progress. As always, families will be contacted directly by their classroom teacher and/or interventionist regarding their child's specific services.

For ELD questions, please contact maureenlochette@re3j.com or melissabaas@re3j.com

504 Support and Compliance

We understand that any change to the learning environment has the potential to be a barrier for our learners. CCA, as a part of RE3j, will continue to work collaboratively with families and students to identify, create, and revise 504 plans and accommodations both in-person and remote.

Decisions around meeting participation and communication will be made on an individual basis. A small number of students with disabilities may not be able to wear face coverings for disability-related reasons. For these students, 504 teams will work together to determine reasonable accommodations.

Some students with disabilities are at higher risk of medical complications. On a case-by-case basis, 504 teams will convene to consider individual needs.

As always, a parent may request a review meeting at any time.

For 504 questions, please contact lisacole@re3j.com or maureenlochette@re3j.com

Gifted and Talented (G/T) and Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) plans

All current G/T and MTSS plans remain in place to start the school year. All plans will be reviewed as data becomes available for us to better serve the needs of students on a G/T or MTSS plan.

Determinations of new G/T and/ or MTSS plans could be delayed due to the nature of this school year. We will follow all guidance provided by CDE regarding testing and possible alternatives as it becomes available.

Please contact maureenlochette@re3j.com for questions regarding G/T or MTSS

Mental Health Services

As always, the mental health of our students is paramount. If students would like to speak with our counselor, parents may call the school to get a permission form. The counselor is at CCA about 4 hours a week.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR REOPENING SCHOOL

Changes to the School Calendar

The current school calendar remains the same but could change. We will do our best to follow any scheduled changes that RE3j makes to their calendar. As of now, RE3j will make decisions about extending fall (November) and winter (December) breaks no later than Friday, November 6, 2020. Any changes to the second semester calendar will be made by December 4, 2020. In the case that CCA must change its schedule, you will be notified through the Principal's Monday Newsletter and will have a chance to speak at the Board meeting regarding the change.

Attendance, Grading and Student Conduct

Depending on guidance from the CDE, attendance during a remote learning event is to be expected. Students are expected to attend school, whether we are in-person or in a remote learning event unless they are sick. In which case, parents should call the school and excuse the absence.

Our regular attendance policy will remain in effect.

If a student is quarantined at home, the expectation is they will engage in remote learning during that time.

Grading policies

Grading policies will continue as usual this year, whether we are in-person or remote learning. We understand that students need specific, meaningful feedback and grading will continue as normal. Students are expected to continue to complete work on time.

Please attend the Back to School Night for your child to hear more specifics about grading.

Student Conduct

We are very proud of the exceptional behavior of our students on a daily basis. In-person or online, students should follow the CCA code of conduct. See the Student Handbook for more information.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Students should bring a clean mask each day. Students will be asked to wear face covering when cohorting is not possible, ie After School Care, unplanned restroom breaks, unless mitigating circumstances preclude use.

If there is a situation where a student is at greater risk of contracting the virus or has at-risk family members at home, they may wear their mask at any time during the day.

Masks should be washed routinely.

Please remind your child(ren) that masks are one of the few tools we have to mitigate transmission of the COVID-19 virus. Your decision regarding masks will be respected, but CCA must follow state and local regulations regarding PPE.

If your child has a mitigating circumstance, please contact leannmeikle@re3j.com

STAFF AND STUDENT SYMPTOM SCREENING

All CCA staff and students must utilize this [self-screen document](#) as the decision-making tool for families and staff in determining whether they may attend school or work.

To keep everyone healthy, we must all participate and stay home if we are experiencing symptoms.

If a student exhibits any symptoms of COVID-19 or communicable disease while at school, he/she will be isolated and parents/guardians must pick their child up from school.

Important information:

- Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus.
- Anyone with symptoms should get tested, stay away from others, and follow the instructions on [how to isolate](#).
- Any student or staff member who has had a known exposure to a positive OR presumed positive COVID case should follow the instructions on [how to quarantine](#) for 14 days after exposure to prevent further transmission.
- Whether or not you are diagnosed with COVID-19, if you don't need to be hospitalized, your treatment will be the same, no matter the test result. Local health departments are encouraging only children and adults who are symptomatic or when there has been a known exposure to be tested.
- At this time, the reliability of COVID tests depend on which test is used:
 - Diagnostic or PCR Tests are used to diagnose people who are currently sick with COVID-19 and are generally more reliable but these tests do not always identify someone who has very recently been exposed.

- Different than Diagnostic tests, are Rapid Antigen Tests that can identify viruses in nose and throat secretions. This is the same technology used in your doctor's office for rapid strep testing but has a higher rate of “false negatives.”
- Coloradans who have any COVID-19 symptoms but receive negative COVID-19 test results should continue to stay home while symptoms persist **and stay in contact with their general practitioner if symptoms do not improve.**
- If you have COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath), **consider a telehealth visit or nurseline advice before seeking in-person care.** Ask your primary care provider if they offer telehealth visits, or call one of Colorado's nurselines.
- Weld County Department of Health and Environment encourages anyone who has symptoms or believes they may have been exposed to COVID-19 to:
 - Call or email a health care provider first. If the provider recommends you get testing or care, follow the provider's advice **BEFORE** going into any health facility. Ask your provider about private lab sites where you can get tested.
 - Do not go to an emergency room to get a test for COVID-19 unless you are having a medical emergency. For COVID-19, that means severe respiratory symptoms such as shortness of breath or breathing difficulties.
 - Do call 911 or go to an emergency room if you are having a medical emergency. Tell the dispatcher your symptoms.

For testing site information, visit:

https://www.weldgov.com/departments/health_and_environment/2019_novel_coronavirus/covid19_testing/Isolate

Salud is offering COVID testing to anyone in the community; you do not need to be a Salud patient.

If you or someone you know would like to be tested, please see the flyers below for further information regarding locations, hours, appointment type, and cost for COVID testing.

[Salud COVID-19 Testing Handout](#)

[Salud COVID-19 Public Testing](#)

Updates regarding Salud's services and any changes due to COVID can be found on the website at **www.saludclinic.org**

PROTOCOLS FOR RETURNING TO SCHOOL

- Students and staff who exhibit COVID-19 symptoms will be encouraged to get tested.
- CDC and local health agencies recommend the following information for determining when a student or staff member can safely return to work or school:

- Staff and students who have no known exposure but have symptoms and receive a negative COVID-19 test result can return to school or work only once they have been fever-free for at least 72 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medications), AND 10 days have passed since the first onset of symptoms, AND symptoms are improving.
- Staff and students who live in the same household with a confirmed or presumed positive COVID-19 diagnosis from a physician and cannot isolate, may not return to work or school until 10 days *after* the household members symptoms have resolved.
- Staff and students who have received a confirmed or presumed positive COVID-19 diagnosis from a physician may not return to school or work until 14 days after the onset of symptoms AND they have been fever-free for at least 72 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medications), AND symptoms are improving.
- Employees or students who are experiencing symptoms they believe are due to seasonal allergies, asthma, or other recurring health problems must be approved by a Registered Nurse employed by the district to attend while symptomatic. Without District Nurse approval, employees or children with any COVID-19 symptoms will be expected to follow the same guidelines as specified in this document.

For questions regarding this guideline, please contact leannmeikle@re3j.com or karachambers@re3j.com

Cleaning and Physical Distancing

- Students will have additional times to wash hands and sanitize.
- As part of a healthy community, students are expected to help clean in their classrooms.
- CCA has enhanced cleaning protocols.
- CCA will encourage students to physically distance.
- Staff has removed fixtures in the classroom to open more space for distancing.
- Students will have their own school supplies. Sharing of items will be discouraged.
- Classes will be outside whenever possible and appropriate.
- Students must use a clearly labeled plastic water bottle.
- Common water fountains will not be used, but additional bottle fillers are available.
- If you wish to meet with your classroom teacher or the principal, please make an appointment.
- Student cohorts will have recess together.
- Contact sports will be discouraged.
- Please do not send equipment or toys from home.
- Students will wash hands before and after recess or outdoor classroom times.

Nursing Services

- All Individual Student Health Plans (ISHP) will be updated to reflect the public health situation and families will be contacted. Completed plans will be in the health room/Infinite Campus/classroom.
- All necessary medications will be expected to be on site and stored in the health room for any time the student is at school.
- Health Aide and district RN response to care for COVID-19 symptomatic staff and students will receive additional training and in coordination with local health agencies.
- Normal Health Room procedures and treatments will continue daily. COVID-19 symptomatic staff and students will utilize an isolated room in the school building.
- The Executive Director of Instructional Support and District RNs will be working in conjunction with local health agencies on symptom reporting during daily attendance.
- We are aware that some well child visits have decreased due to COVID-19 and required immunizations were missed. Ms. Meikle will be working with families on updated processes.
- State immunization rules/expectations remain in place.
- There will be a grace period for non-compliance exclusion due to COVID-19.

For questions regarding the Nursing Services at CCA, please contact leannmeikle@re3j.com

Other/ Miscellaneous

We have protocols in place to ensure students continue to stay healthy and at school. Please reach out to maureenlochette@re3j.com if you have questions about the following:

- Students will eat outdoors when weather permits
- Microwaves may not be available. Please plan on not heating up lunches this year.
- Sharing of food is highly discouraged.
- Regarding field trips, each trip will be evaluated for student safety. Field trips are not guaranteed this year.
- There will be no large assemblies.
- Essential visitors will be welcomed by appointment
- PTO/Accountability/ other committees will be held virtually
- Fall conferences will be scheduled as soon as possible using the most current guidelines.

Health Orders and Guidance References

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Safer at Home and in the Vast, Great Outdoors
- Colorado Statewide Facemask Order
- Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Orders
- Colorado Department of Education
- Weld County Department of Health and Environment

Community Resources:

[CDPHE: Coronavirus Disease](#)

[CDC: Coronavirus](#)

[Weld County: COVID-19](#)

[Adams County: COVID-19](#)

[Resources for Families Impacted by COVID-19](#)

[2-1-1 Colorado](#)

[Second Wind Fund](#)

www.saludclinic.org

Bibliography:

[Colorado Health Institute COVID-19 Strategies for Schools](#)

[Family Partnership in the Time of Covid- Community of Practice](#)

[Guidance on Culturally Responsive Re-Entry](#)

[CDE Protocols for Protecting the Health of Students and Educators](#)

[CDC Coronavirus 2019 \(COVID-19\) Considerations for Schools](#)

[CDPHE Guidelines for Infectious Disease for Schools and Childcare - COVID-19](#)

[CO Executive Orders and Public Health Orders](#)

[National Association of School Nurses Coronavirus 2019 Resources](#)

[Weld RE3j](#)

[Greeley-Evans Weld County District 6](#)

[St. Vrain Valley School District](#)

[Boulder Valley School District](#)

[Jeffco Restart Plan](#)