



Elk Ridge Middle School

Reopening Plan & Mitigating Strategies

This plan is based on guidance from the Utah State Department of Education and the Jordan School District 2020-21 Reopening Plan. Visit movingforward.jordandistrict.org or elkridgemiddle.org for the most current version of all plans.

Be Safe - Be Kind - Be Responsible

GENERAL INFORMATION	
ERMS Priorities	Our first priority is safety for students, staff, and patrons. This includes both physical and emotional health. Once safety is maximized, our priority becomes the academic health of our students. Be safe, be kind, and be responsible.
School-Wide Safety Expectations	Face coverings must be worn at all times by employees, students, and visitors while at school or on the school bus unless a medically directed exemption is in place. They will not be required when eating or drinking, which should be done only when physical distancing is possible. Individuals who are unwilling to comply with the order may be excluded from school after reasonable efforts to educate them on the importance of face coverings have been made. Other hygiene protocols such as hand washing and desk/table cleaning will be incorporated into daily routines and physical distancing will be required whenever possible.
Bell Schedule (M-TH)	An updated copy of the bell schedule can be found here and on our website. Students will attend all 7 periods Monday through Thursday with in-person attendance being optional on Fridays. DEAR has been temporarily removed to reduce transitions and maximize class time. The interventions that normally happen in that time will occur virtually and on Fridays. Students will be released from class at staggered times to reduce hallway congestion, and will be encouraged to use the restroom during class instead of during passing times.
Bell Schedule (Friday)	Friday is not a day off of school for students, although in-person attendance is optional. Students will continue to engage in learning activities on Fridays through virtual means unless in-person intervention or enrichment is needed. Students attending in-person on Fridays who need busing will attend from 9:50 am - 12:50 pm, with breakfast from 9:45 -10:15 am and lunch served from 12:20 to 12:50 pm.
Drop-Off, Pick-Up, Entry and Exiting	Outside doors at the front and rear of the school will be propped open at 7:30 am. Students entering the building before school should go directly to the cafeteria or their 1st period. Students will be encouraged to leave the building directly after school unless they have an arranged meeting with a teacher. Parents are encouraged to drop students off as close to the start of school as possible, and to pick them up promptly after school ends.
Chromebooks	All students will be provided with a Chromebook that should be taken home each night and brought to school charged each day. Chromebooks should be kept in provided neoprene sleeves when not in use. Students will use the same Chromebook all 3 years at Elk Ridge.
Lockers	Lockers will be assigned, but discouraged. 8th and 9th graders will keep the same locker they had last year. When use of a locker is necessary, students should only use lockers at the beginning and end of each day. Students will not change clothes for PE, and so PE lockers will not be assigned.
Back-to-School Night and Parent-Teacher Conferences	Back-to-School Night will be held virtually and not on a single night. Instead, videos of school and classroom information will be available on our website and via Skylert. Information about the format for parent-teacher conferences will be provided at a later date.
Mental Health Support	Teachers have been trained to be more aware of the potential stress and anxiety related to returning to school. Counselors, school psychologists, social workers, and administrators will be available to work with students, and social and emotional learning will be addressed periodically with students in their classes.



Elk Ridge Middle School

Reopening Plan & Mitigating Strategies

PLAN DETAILS BY LOCATION

At Home, Before School, and In Quarantine	<p>Students, staff and patrons should check for symptoms before coming to school. A health/symptom checklist can be found here. Paper copies will be available in the main office. Parents and students will be reminded regularly in-person and via Skylert to check temperatures and screen for other COVID-related symptoms prior to arriving at school. Anyone exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 will be expected to stay at home. Attendance rules will be adjusted to encourage this behavior.</p> <p>All healthcare plans (504's, IEP's, etc.) will be reviewed by administrators, counselors, psychologists, and case managers and adjusted as needed based on COVID-19 risk factors. Students or staff with specific concerns should contact an administrator. Parents with students identified as being at higher risk for severe illness will be able to request accommodations within the school and classroom. All students will be required to wear masks or other approved face covering unless a district-approved medical exemption has been completed.</p> <p>Teachers will have options in place for students who are ill or isolating short-term (i.e. work being sent home, virtual conferences, phone calls, broadcast or recorded lessons, online modules, etc.) Grading and attendance policies will not penalize students for staying home when ill or for isolating. Students will all be provided Chromebooks that can be used at school, taken home each night and used when short or long-term learning is needed.</p>
On the Bus	<p>Students who ride the bus will be assigned a seat by the driver in an effort to reduce congestion and movement on the bus. Bussing will be provided on Fridays allowing students to be at school from 9:50 AM to 12:50 PM. Adults will supervise students as they load and unload busses.</p>
In the Office, Checking In and Out, and Volunteering Sick & Quarantine Rooms	<p>All office areas will have plexiglass dividers, hand sanitizer, and options for conducting business remotely whenever possible to limit the number of visitors to the building.</p> <p>Parents checking out their student will be asked to provide information to the attendance office via Skyward. Instructions can be found on our website. Upon arrival, the approved family member will show ID in the attendance office and return to their car and the student will be sent out to them..</p> <p>Visitors and volunteers will complete a COVID screening questionnaire online before entering the school. If a visitor is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, they will be directed to stay home. Signs will be posted in multiple locations around the school requesting face coverings to be worn.</p> <p>Students with non-COVID medical concerns will be attended to in the sick room located in the attendance office. Students with COVID-related symptoms will be placed in a location designated as a quarantine room until parents can pick them up. Students will be expected to remain at least 6 feet apart and wear masks in all sick/quarantine rooms. A COVID symptom checklist can be found on the school website, and can be printed or picked up from the main office. All staff have been trained on how to communicate health issues while protecting privacy. This will include aspects of contact tracing, privacy on the phone and when discussing concerns, and other issues per guidance from the local health department and school district.</p> <p>All employees or students who are feeling sick, or exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 will be asked to stay home. In order to encourage this behavior, policies and procedures will be put in place to ensure students and staff are not penalized or behind for staying home.</p> <p>Directives from the Utah Department of Health will be followed in cases of a positive COVID-19 case in the school.</p>



Elk Ridge Middle School

Reopening Plan & Mitigating Strategies

Plans for Classrooms	<p>All classrooms will have appropriate PPE and supplies including hand sanitizer, cleaners, and plexiglass. Other, more specific measures may be taken according to circumstance. Within the classroom, teachers will work to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Space desks as far apart as possible• Store or surplus excess furniture to provide more space• Establish routines for hand washing and sanitizing• Create seating charts to assist with contact tracing• Create digital content and limit the use of physical materials shared by students• Create routines to limit congestion at entry/exit points and within the classroom• Note unusual circumstances in disclosure documents and communications home• Follow procedures to address symptomatic students in the classroom according to current contact tracing guidelines.
Plans for Unique Courses	<p>Some courses present unique challenges when mitigating risks. It is important to realize that not all risks can be eliminated with some courses, thus the high-risk designation. Students with concerns about risks should work with their counselor. What follows are some of the mitigation strategies being taken to decrease risks in our specialized courses:</p> <p>PE: Students will not dress down for class, but will be required to wear or change into appropriate shoes. Whenever possible, class will be held outdoors where physical distancing can be maintained and masks can be removed. Students' temperatures will be checked each day upon arrival, and students will be asked to verbally confirm they are symptom-free. All equipment will be sanitized between use, and students will engage in team sports only in small groups to limit potential risks.</p> <p>Choir: Class will be held in the auditorium where students can be spaced more than 6 feet apart at all times. Students will be assigned seats so that, as much as possible, they are the only student using that seat throughout the day. Students' temperatures will be checked each day upon arrival, and students will be asked to verbally confirm they are symptom-free. We are working to acquire specialized face coverings to allow students to both sing and decrease potential risks. Performances will be recorded and presented online to parents and via the school website.</p> <p>Band & Orchestra: Seating will be arranged to allow for maximum distance between students. All stands and shared instruments will be cleaned between classes. Students will not share mouthpieces. In band, masks can only be removed when playing the instrument. Practice rooms will be limited to 4 students at one time. Students' temperatures will be checked each day upon arrival, and students will be asked to verbally confirm they are symptom-free. Performances will be recorded and presented online to parents and via the school website. A socially distanced audience of students from other classes may be present for the recording in order to provide a performance experience.</p> <p>Dance & Yoga: Students will change in the locker room, which is not being used by PE. Floors will be cleaned between class, as will yoga mats. Students' temperatures will be checked each day upon arrival, and students will be asked to verbally confirm they are symptom-free. Students will be placed in quadrants within the room to limit potential spread. Performances will be both recorded and performed in front of a limited audience in the auditorium. Other measures may be taken as needed to mitigate risks.</p> <p>Drama: Students will have assigned seats and grouping as much as possible. Structure of assignments will decrease close interaction and students will be asked to confirm they are symptom-free before entering the classroom.</p> <p>CTE Courses: Each class presents unique challenges, and teachers have made individual plans to mitigate risk. This includes sanitization of keyboards, sewing machines, etc. between classes, frequent handwashing, regular sanitization of high-touch surfaces, and grouping of students to limit spread. When labs occur, students' temperatures will be checked upon arrival, and students will be asked to verbally confirm they are symptom-free.</p>



Elk Ridge Middle School

Reopening Plan & Mitigating Strategies

In Special Education Classes	Students with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), 504 Plan, or Health Plan will be provided the same opportunities as their peers. All healthcare plans (504's, IEP's, etc.) will be reviewed by administrators, counselors, psychologists, and case managers and adjusted as needed based on COVID-19 risk factors. In cases where teachers and students will be in close contact, face shields and plexiglass partitions will be used to mitigate risk. Please refer to the "In the Classroom" section for other classroom-specific procedures.
In the Hallway	Hallways will be labeled to maximize spacing and traffic flow. This includes lines on the floor to divide traffic, marked intersections, directional indicators, etc. If needed, hallways will be made one-way to reduce congestion. Backpacks will be allowed in classrooms and students will be asked to only use lockers when necessary, and only before or after school. Student dismissal times will be staggered to ease traffic congestion in the hallways. Students will be asked to use the restroom primarily during class via electronic hall pass, and will be encouraged to use refillable water bottles. All drinking fountains will be limited to water bottle filling stations only. High-touch areas will be cleaned through-out the day. (i.e., doors, doorknobs, and door casings, vending machines, light switches, and drinking fountains)
In the Cafeteria	Lines and traffic flow patterns are marked on the floor and students will be released from class at staggered times to reduce congestion. Students will each have an ID card that can be scanned to make touchless checkout possible. All lunches are grab-and-go, with nothing that needs to be returned. There will be four options for lunch each day. Students will be expected to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before picking up their lunch. Students will be seated in a way that will maximize distance while eating, and will be allowed to eat outdoors whenever weather permits. Alternate locations in the school will also be used to allow appropriate social distancing. Students will be expected to wear a face covering.
In the Restroom	Proper handwashing signage will be posted above all sinks. Students will be encouraged to use the restroom during class to minimize congestion during passing times. Custodians have a plan for daily restroom cleaning of high touch surfaces multiple times a day. Students will be encouraged to follow appropriate entry/exit routines.
In the Gym	Students will not dress down for class, but will be required to wear or change into appropriate shoes. Whenever possible, class will be held outdoors where physical distancing can be maintained and masks can be removed. Students' temperatures will be checked each day upon arrival, and students will be asked to verbally confirm they are symptom-free. All equipment will be sanitized between use, and students will engage in team sports only in small groups to limit potential risks.
In the Library	Students will be asked to wash hands or use sanitizer before entering. Library schedules will be coordinated to minimize group sizes and increase time for cleaning. Seating, traffic flow patterns, and checkout procedures are established to minimize congestion. High-touch surfaces will be cleaned regularly, and students will use a scannable ID card to check out materials. Students will be encouraged to limit the touching of library materials to those they plan to check out. Returned materials will be quarantined before returning to circulation.
On the Field	Elk Ridge does not have organized sports teams. Fields are used during school hours for organized class activities, and students will be expected to follow distancing guidelines.
On School Grounds	While the current health orders state that face coverings are not required when outdoors and physical distancing can be maintained, we strongly encourage face coverings at all times on school grounds. If appropriate distancing is not maintained, face coverings will be required. This will be especially important before and after school, and parents are expected to ensure their students understand the importance and adhere to these requirements.

NOTE: No one plan will cover all contingencies, and circumstances relating to COVID-19 are changing constantly. Please contact our principal, Curtis Jenson, if you have specific questions or concerns related to precautions, contact tracing, etc. Your patience and understanding is invaluable, and we appreciate any help you can offer in ensuring the safety and well-being of our students!

Updated 8/17/2020