

Scotia Union School District in Person Learning Guidance

The first day of school, August 31, is a few short weeks away! At this time, we are focused on planning and preparing for the new school year. Scotia School is offering two learning options for our students- attend school in person in small, stable cohorts, or attend school virtually through our distance learning program. For those who have chosen distance learning, we are asking for a commitment of the first trimester.

Our records indicate your family has chosen to send your child(ren) back to school for in person learning.

If you are interested in the distance learning option, please contact the school as soon as possible.

We know you are trusting us to provide a safe, supportive learning environment for your child(ren), and we do not take this role lightly. As we often say, we are a family - and we care for all our students as if they were our own children. In order to return with all required safety precautions and protocols in place, the entire Scotia School staff is taking part in planning and training to prepare for reopening. We will be following our School Site Specific Protection Plan (Our School Reopening Safety Plan), created in collaboration with Humboldt County Public Health and the Humboldt County Office of Education.

Once approved, this reopening plan will be available on the school's website.

Virtual Back to School Nights will be scheduled the week of August 24.

Each grade level will have its own individual time for this important meeting.

Individual Teachers will be contacting families with the date and time of their scheduled Back to School Night presentation soon.

All of our students returning to school in person will remain in small, stable classroom cohorts. These cohorts will remain together throughout the day. Each cohort will be assigned its own restroom, and its own outside area for recess, classroom breaks, and outdoor instruction. Students will be required to remain with their classroom cohort throughout the day, and will not be permitted in common areas of the school building without a staff member. Interior and exterior surfaces will be cleaned throughout the day.

Below is an overview of daily procedures and guidelines.

It is extremely important that we all follow these guidelines in order to provide a safe environment for our students and staff, and to allow us to remain open for in person instruction.

Points to Remember

- Families must complete a daily health screening prior to student(s) arriving at school (see below).
- Face coverings must be worn by all adults at all times while on school grounds.
- Students grades 3-8 must wear face coverings, and students grades TK-2 are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings, when indoors and when unable to be socially distanced.
- The school will provide a face covering for anyone who needs one.
- Social distancing guidelines must be followed while on school grounds. There can be no congregating on campus.
- Visitors and non-school employees are only permitted in the front office of the building. Please enter the building through the front doors and go straight to the front office.
- Students are only to enter the building through their classroom's exterior door, and are only permitted in common areas (library/halls/office) of the building if with a staff member.

- Each classroom cohort is assigned its own bathroom and outdoor area for recess, outdoor breaks/recreation, and outdoor learning.
- Classroom cohorts will spend as much time outside as is feasible.
- Free breakfast will be available to every student every day in every classroom.
- Free lunch and a free “Super Snack/Supper” will be available to every student every day to bring home.
- We strongly encourage all students to participate in our free meals program.
- Students grades 1-8 will be given their meals to go, and will be excused at 1:00 daily.
- Kindergarten students will eat their lunch at school.
- ASES is open **1:00-5:00** daily for those families who have already committed. All others will be put on a waiting list.
- Students will use hand sanitizer or wash their hands at the classroom sink when entering and leaving the classroom and throughout the day.
- Student chairs will be facing forward and 3-6 feet from each other in the classrooms. Where this spacing is not possible, (small group instruction, centers) plexiglass dividers will be used between students, and between students and staff.

Prior to Arrival at School

Daily Student Health Screenings- We are implementing, in collaboration with the Humboldt County Office of Education, a daily health check app for our families to use before arriving at school.

Please enter the information in the health screening app by 7:45 AM each morning.

If a parent has not entered the day’s data into the health screening app by 7:55, the student will be screened by a staff member prior to entering the classroom.

All information in the app is kept strictly confidential and is for school use only.

More information on the check in app will be forthcoming.

Arrival (8:00-8:25)

The front parking lot is for staff and accessible parking only. For the safety of our students, please do not pull in to the front parking lot at any time.

Drivers- pull up to student drop off zone in front of the staff parking lot and pull forward towards the gym. Student(s) will exit the car and walk directly to their classroom and enter through the classroom’s exterior door.

Bus Riders and Walkers- students will walk directly to their classroom and enter through the classroom’s exterior door.

Parents/guardians who walk their students to class- please walk your child directly to their classroom’s exterior door, keeping distance from others.

Parents/guardians are not allowed in the classrooms.

Recess and Outdoor Recreation/Learning

Students will wash their hands or use hand sanitizer whenever entering or leaving the classroom. Hand sanitizer is available at each classroom entrance, and each classroom (except one) has a sink with a soap dispenser.

Each classroom’s paraprofessional (classroom aide) will supervise students during breakfast in the classroom, and recess break.

Each cohort will use its own restroom assigned to that specific cohort. Only one student from the cohort will be allowed in the restroom at a time. Restrooms will be cleaned regularly throughout the day.

Teachers will give students frequent breaks from the classroom, and will hold class outside as much as is feasible. Each classroom cohort will have assigned outdoor areas for recess, classroom breaks, and outdoor instruction.

Daily 1:00 Dismissal

Students will be dismissed at 1:00 daily. Students will depart campus following the same procedures and protocols as when entering campus. Parents picking up students on campus are reminded to remain distanced from others, and to refrain from congregating.

Students will be offered a free “grab and go” lunch and a free “Super Snack/Supper” each day before leaving campus. We strongly encourage all students to participate in our meal program! We are able to offer free lunches and free “Super Snacks/Suppers” due to the assumption that many of our students will participate and enjoy these delicious, nutritious meals.

The school bus will depart school shortly after 1:00 daily.

After 1:00

All students not enrolled in ASES must leave campus and not return, unless for a scheduled meeting with a staff member. Staff will be spending afternoons meeting with individual students and small groups both in person and virtually, meeting with parents, planning and preparing lessons and materials, and cleaning/sanitizing. Students who stay after school for extra assistance or support services must have this time scheduled beforehand. Parents will be notified prior to a student remaining at school beyond 1:00. Some of the services offered to our students after 1:00 may include: extra assistance from the classroom teacher or special education teacher/speech therapist (if applicable), music lessons with Mrs. Scharberg, counseling with Miss Moriah

ASES (After School Program)

The After School Program will operate from 1:00-5:00 daily. We ask that only families who need supervision for their students attend ASES at this time. This will help us to keep cohorts as small as possible.

Students attending the After School Program will walk directly from their classroom to their check in location.

Students attending ASES will eat their lunch at ASES, as well as a “Super Snack/Supper” and a snack.

We are excited to be offering a free “Super Snack/Supper” program this year!

Distance Learning Option

If you prefer to change your child’s learning plan to distance learning, we ask that you please contact the school as soon as possible.

Those opting for distance learning will need to commit to that mode of learning for at least the first trimester (August 31-November 20).

The school will provide all necessary materials, textbooks, and devices necessary for distance learning.

Distance learners will be required to participate in daily scheduled classroom lessons synchronously (in real time) with their in-person learning classmates.

Parents /guardians of distance learners will be required to turn in/pick up any paper assignments or materials each Friday between 1:30-3:30.