

# OTHS Return to Learn Framework 2020-2021

**As adopted by the Board of Education 7/23/20**

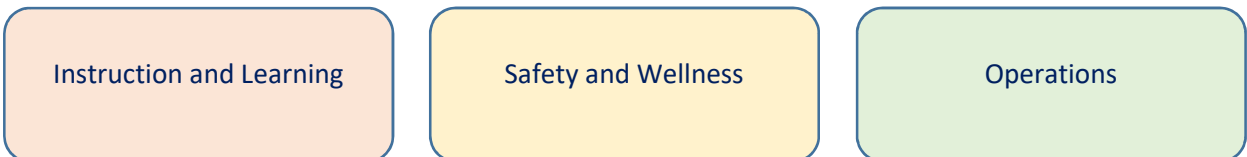
On May 5, 2020, Governor JB Pritzker announced the Restore Illinois plan, which explained a public health approach to safely reopen the state of Illinois. The OTHS Remote and Blended Learning Plan focuses on considerations during Phase 4 of the Restore Illinois plan, with the ability to transition back to Phase 3 or forward to Phase 5 as public health indicators will necessitate.

On June 23, 2020, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) in collaboration with the Illinois Department of Public Health released guidance titled: *Starting the 2020-21 School Year: Part 3 – Transition Joint Guidance*. In-Person Instruction is strongly encouraged during Phase 4. During Phase 4, the Illinois Department of Public Health guidelines will require:

- Use of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including face coverings;
- 50 or less individuals gathering in one space;
- Social distancing observed, as much as possible;
- Schools conduct symptom screenings and temperature checks, or require that individuals self-certify that they are free of symptoms before entering school buildings; and
- An increase in school-wide cleaning and disinfection

With guidance received from ISBE, IDPH, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Governor's Office, O'Fallon Township High School District 203 (OTHS) developed its Remote 2.0 and Blended Learning Plan for times when it is not possible to conduct school under traditional models. The plan is the result of a collaborative committee effort consisting of administrators, teachers, support personnel and union leadership, and was reviewed and approved by the OTHS Board of Education. Feedback received from parents, students, and community members also contributed to outcomes and procedures in the final plan.

The goal of the plan is to provide the highest quality of academic instruction and extracurricular opportunities during the COVID-19 pandemic, while prioritizing the safety, mental health, and physical health of our students and employees. This plan has been divided into the following three sections:



As circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic continue to evolve, OTHS is prepared to evolve our instructional methodologies accordingly to meet the needs of our students. OTHS has developed plans that will allow for remote learning, in-person learning, and blended learning (a combination of remote and in-person learning). We will be ready to provide high quality education and supports to our students under any circumstance or mandate.

## Instruction and Learning

The remote/blended learning framework is an outcome of Governor Pritzker's Restore Illinois Plan and can be adjusted to meet requirements of any phase outlined in that plan.

1. During Remote 2.0 or Blended Learning, the **daily school schedule** will be shortened as follows<sup>1</sup>:

SMILEY CAMPUS	MILBURN CAMPUS
Early Bird: 7:20 - 7:55	
1 <sup>st</sup> Hour: 8:00 - 8:35	1 <sup>st</sup> Hour: 7:30 - 8:05
2 <sup>nd</sup> Hour: 8:40 - 9:15	2 <sup>nd</sup> Hour: 8:10 - 8:45
3 <sup>rd</sup> Hour: 9:20 - 9:55	3 <sup>rd</sup> Hour: 8:50 - 9:25
4 <sup>th</sup> Hour: 10:00 - 10:35	4 <sup>th</sup> Hour: 9:30 - 10:05
5 <sup>th</sup> Hour: 10:40 - 11:15	5 <sup>th</sup> Hour: 10:10 - 10:45
6 <sup>th</sup> Hour: 11:20 - 11:55	6 <sup>th</sup> Hour: 10:50 - 11:25
7 <sup>th</sup> Hour: 12:00 - 12:35	7 <sup>th</sup> Hour: 11:30 - 12:05

Breakfast will be available to students. Lunch will be served on a "grab and go" basis to be consumed at home.

Students are expected to participate in classes during the assigned times. During Blended Learning, teachers will generally be providing the same lesson to all students each day. Some students will receive the lesson remotely while others will be in the classroom. Blended Learning will have students alternating days between In-Person instruction and Remote Learning.

2. Students will be broken into 4 groups<sup>2</sup> --- A, B, C, D --- which allows for:
  - a. 100 % in-person instruction where all groups report (Phase 5)
  - b. Blended Learning<sup>3</sup> 50% Option – students groups AB and CD alternate days of in-person instruction and remote instruction (Phase 4). This would allow for at least 2 days of in-person instruction for each student per week.
  - c. Blended Learning 25% Option – student groups A, B, C, and D alternate days of in-person instruction and remote instruction (possibly Phase 3). This would allow for at least 1 days of in-person instruction for each student per week.
  - d. Complete Remote 2.0 learning for all groups A, B, C, and D (Phases 1 and 2).
3. Students/Families may opt to do remote learning, but must commit to remote learning for the entire semester.
4. Special Education students will attend in-person instruction and receive special services per their individual need and program<sup>4</sup>.
5. Daily Attendance will be taken<sup>5</sup>.
6. Grading will be traditional grading<sup>6</sup>. Students will be accountable for attending classes remotely or in-person, and for completing all assignments.
7. Student Supports (Social Work Services, Academic Guidance, Academic Assistance, etc.) will be provided<sup>7</sup>.
8. Technology devices will be distributed to students as needed.

## Safety and Wellness

1. All staff and students will be required to wear face coverings<sup>8</sup> while inside the schools and on buses unless medical documentation is provided. Progressive discipline will be administered to students who do not properly wear face coverings as directed, consistent with other disciplinary consequences for similar violations. Parents/guardians should note that some students may be medically exempted from the face covering requirement.
2. Visitors to the schools will be extremely limited. All visitors will be required to wear face coverings while inside the schools and must self-certify health status upon entering the building<sup>9</sup>.
3. OTHS students and staff are to maintain social distancing<sup>10</sup> (6 feet separation) throughout the school day to the extent possible. Classrooms will be organized to space students apart to the greatest extent possible while retaining educational function. Students will be required to move expeditiously in the hallways when moving from class to class during passing periods, as lockers will not be used<sup>11</sup>.
4. Frequent hand washing<sup>12</sup> and hand sanitizing is key to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, influenza, and other communicable diseases. Employees and students must wash hands as often as possible with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
5. Classrooms will be cleaned and disinfected daily. Emphasis will be placed on high touch surfaces and common areas<sup>13</sup>.
6. Restrooms, cafeterias, and other common areas will be cleaned multiple times throughout the day<sup>14</sup>.
7. During Phase 3, students will be limited to groups of 10. During Phase 4, students will be limited to groups of 50 in any one area including buses<sup>15</sup>. Hallway traffic patterns will be adjusted<sup>16</sup>.
8. Hand sanitizers<sup>17</sup> will be available in every classroom and in multiple locations throughout the building.
9. Students will be encouraged to bring water bottles<sup>18</sup>.
10. Employees and students will receive safety training related to social distancing, face coverings, personal hygiene procedures, and symptoms of COVID-19.
11. All staff and students will be required to have a health screening or self-certification of health upon entering buildings<sup>19</sup>.

By entering the school building, all students and employees are certifying that they meet the following criteria<sup>20</sup>:

- They do not have a temperature over 100.4F.
- They are not taking fever-reducing medicines, such as those that contain aspirin, ibuprofen or acetaminophen, in order to reduce his/her fever.
- They have not had close contact or cared for someone with COVID-19 within the past 14 days.
- They have not returned from travel outside the United States or on a cruise ship or river boat within the past 14 days.
- They have not been directed to self-quarantine by a health care provider.
- They have not been directed to self-quarantine by the County or State Department of Public Health.
- They do NOT have any of the following symptoms:
  - Chills
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
  - Fatigue
  - Muscle or body aches
  - Headache
  - New loss of taste or smell
  - Sore throat

- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

12. Students who become who are experiencing any of the symptoms of COVID-19 while at school will be immediately directed to return home. Students with symptoms of COVID-19 should not report to the health office, but rather to the quarantine area to be checked out to be released to go home.<sup>21</sup>

## Operations

1. To the greatest extent possible, visitors will be restricted from entry into the building. Face coverings are required to enter a building and must be worn at all times. All visitors must undergo a health screening<sup>22</sup> prior to entering the building. Visitors should check in at the welcome center on each campus and should complete the visitor screening questionnaire.
2. Food service: Meals for Students will be available.
3. Transportation<sup>23</sup>: Illinois Central has developed several safety protocols to keep our staff and students safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - a. Students must wear face coverings at all times when on the bus.
  - b. Eating and drinking is prohibited on the bus.
  - c. Parents will be required provide certification of health for their student before the student will be allowed to board the bus.
  - d. Drivers must wear approved and appropriate face coverings and perform regular hand hygiene.
  - e. Drivers are subject to the health screenings as provided by Illinois Central.
4. All custodial/maintenance staff will follow the established cleaning procedures for building cleaning and disinfection as recommended by the IDPH<sup>24</sup> and will be trained on the return to school guidelines, where applicable. These procedures will include extra sanitation efforts using certified or registered EPA products in both low/high contact areas including:
  - a. Desktops
  - b. Door handles
  - c. Countertops
  - d. Handrails
  - e. Light switches
  - f. Drinking fountains
  - g. Restroom fixtures

Building custodians and cleaning personnel will conduct daily cleaning and disinfection. An EPA approved cleaner<sup>25</sup> will be used for disinfection along with our standard cleaning protocols. All frequently touched surfaces (e.g., door handles/knobs, desktops/tabletops, countertops, light switches, pencil sharpeners, computer keyboards, hands-on learning items, phones, sinks and faucets) will be cleaned on a regular basis. Restrooms, hallways, cafeterias, and common areas will be cleaned throughout the day. Soft surfaces such as carpets and rugs will be disinfected daily. Extra sanitation efforts will occur during in-class learning which will address high traffic/common areas. Each week, a detailed sanitation will occur throughout the facility with extensive deep cleaning of restrooms and other common areas. Cleaning and buffing of areas, ground operations and Regional Office of Education compliance duties will be occurring on remote learning days.

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<sup>1</sup> *Starting the 2020-2021 School Year: Part 3 – Transition Joint Guidance*, Illinois State Board of Education and Illinois Department of Public Health, June 23, 2020, p. 11 and related FAQ.

<sup>2</sup> *Restore Illinois: A Public Health Approach to Safely Reopen Our State*, Office of the Governor JB Pritzker, May 5, 2020

<sup>3</sup> *Starting the 2020-2021 School Year: Part 3 – Transition Joint Guidance*, Illinois State Board of Education and Illinois Department of Public Health, June 23, 2020, p. 15-17 and related FAQ.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid*, p. 24.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid*, p. 17-18.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid*, p. 25-26.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid*, p. 43

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid*, p. 32-33.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid*, p. 34

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid*, p. 34

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid*, p. 38

<sup>12</sup> “When and How to Wash Your Hands,” Center for Disease Control and Prevention, <https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html>; *Starting the 2020-2021 School Year: Part 3 – Transition Joint Guidance*, Illinois State Board of Education and Illinois Department of Public Health, June 23, 2020, p. 31-32 and related FAQ.

<sup>13</sup> *Starting the 2020-2021 School Year: Part 3 – Transition Joint Guidance*, Illinois State Board of Education and Illinois Department of Public Health, June 23, 2020, p. 35-36 and related FAQ.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid*, p. 35

<sup>15</sup> *Restore Illinois: A Public Health Approach to Safely Reopen Our State*, Office of the Governor JB Pritzker, May 5, 2020

<sup>16</sup> *Starting the 2020-2021 School Year: Part 3 – Transition Joint Guidance*, Illinois State Board of Education and Illinois Department of Public Health, June 23, 2020, p. 38 and related FAQ.

<sup>17</sup> “When and How to Wash Your Hands,” Center for Disease Control and Prevention, <https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html>

<sup>18</sup> *Starting the 2020-2021 School Year: Part 3 – Transition Joint Guidance*, Illinois State Board of Education and Illinois Department of Public Health, June 23, 2020, p. 39-40 and related FAQ.

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid*, p. 34

<sup>20</sup> “Reducing the Spread of COVID-19 in Workplaces,” Center for Disease Control and Prevention, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/general-business-faq.html>

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<sup>21</sup> *Starting the 2020-2021 School Year: Part 3 – Transition Joint Guidance*, Illinois State Board of Education and Illinois Department of Public Health, June 23, 2020, p. 45 and related FAQ.

<sup>22</sup> “Reducing the Spread of COVID-19 in Workplaces,” Center for Disease Control and Prevention, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/general-business-faq.html>

<sup>23</sup> *Starting the 2020-2021 School Year: Part 3 – Transition Joint Guidance*, Illinois State Board of Education and Illinois Department of Public Health, June 23, 2020, p. 41-42 and related FAQ.

<sup>24</sup> *Ibid*, p. 35-36

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid*, p.35