



Okaloosa Academy

Home of the LEAP Program

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope this message finds everyone HEALTHY and SAFE! With the COVID-19 pandemic, we are certainly living a new normal, and one that seems to continuously change. We are excited about the upcoming school year and are looking forward to seeing our students. School staff has been diligently working this summer to ensure the reopening of the school campus is done as safely as possible. We would like to discuss school-specific precautions we are taking at Okaloosa Academy. Please understand our plan is subject to change before school starts, but we will keep you informed of any changes affecting Okaloosa Academy.

Monday, August 31st is the first day of the 2020-2021 school year. Our goal is to ensure parents make informed decisions regarding which option they prefer for their student. The options from which to choose are:

OPTION 1 - Traditional School: Your child attends school at Okaloosa Academy with health and safety precautions in place (see below for additional information). Since your child is already enrolled at Okaloosa Academy, you do not need to take any action to choose this option.

OPTION 2 - Remote Online: This option is designed for families who would like to maintain their connection to, but do not yet feel comfortable sending their child back to the school building in August. The format will be delivered utilizing the Edgenuity platform. Students will have to check-in with teachers daily, complete all assignments, and finish the coursework. The time requirement will be a minimum of 5 hours daily within the 24 hour period.

In order to ensure proper teacher staffing and scheduling, parents need to make this selection by August 3, 2020.

Device and internet access are required .

For students who choose Option 1 and will be at Okaloosa Academy, campus life will look very different. Our #1 priority is to do all we can to keep our Okaloosa Academy family healthy. Staff, parents, and students must work together for the greater good of our school and community.

While there is a likelihood schools will have positive COVID-19 cases at some point, we will do everything we possibly can to try to prevent that from happening. The wellbeing of our school family relies on each person doing their part to be safe and considerate of others. Below are the key precautions Okaloosa Academy will have in place:

Bus-riders will be asked to use hand sanitizer when boarding the bus and will also be required to wear a mask due to the inability to socially distance. Seats will be assigned to students to

minimize close contacts. Buses will be cleaned and disinfected both in the morning and afternoon.

The temperature of all students and staff will be taken with infrared thermometers upon arrival and randomly throughout the course of the school day. Anyone with a temperature above 100.4 will be housed in an isolation room, until they can be picked up from school by parent/guardian.

On campus (ramps, classrooms, café, media center, etc.) both students and staff will be required to wear masks. The school has ordered enough supply to provide daily mask, if needed.

Classes will be on a block schedule. Teachers will rotate to the student. Students will remain in their assigned cohort throughout the day.

In order to minimize large group student interaction, breakfast and lunch will be delivered to the classroom.

Every room will be equipped with a hand sanitizer dispenser. Students are permitted to bring their own sanitizer and will also have a scheduled time for hand-washing prior to their breakfast/lunch block.

Excess classroom furniture has been removed from classrooms to allow maximum separation of desks. Seating will be as far apart as possible. The amount of separation is dependent upon class size; therefore, social distancing may not be feasible. Desks will face one direction as opposed to being grouped in pods and students will have an assigned seat. Once again, the goal is limit the number of students with whom your child will have direct contact for an extended amount of time.

All students will be individually provided the necessary school supplies to establish a one-to-one contact. This includes binders and chrome books. All school supplied materials will be collected, stored, and disinfected prior to the next school day.

Common surfaces (desks, door handles, devices, etc.) will be cleaned between each block. Staff will be using a student-friendly disinfectant. Upon completion of the school day, each classroom and office space will be sanitized using a UV germicidal sanitizing system.

Parents, visitors, and volunteers will not be allowed beyond the front office complex for the first semester to minimize risk. All parent conferencing will occur via email, phone, or video conferencing as to limit entries to campus while maintaining close communication with our stakeholders.

Should the school have a positive case, our staff will work closely with the Department of Health to determine who is has been in direct contact and will need to be quarantined.

Continued updated information will be posted on our school website @ okaloosaacademy.org.