Return to Learn with ISD 318

2022-2023 School Year

#318pride

Superintendent's Message

The last two years have been as challenging as they get for our society and our schools. We've worked through school shut-downs, various learning models, and challenging mitigation measures. Our goal all along has been to high quality, flexible, and responsive education to students and parents, regardless of what model we were in. Discussions about schedules, attendance, teaching and learning approaches, technology and meeting students' needs have been challenging, but our goal of equitable learning for all kept us motivated.

Keeping as many kids in school as we can, as safely as we can, meant that we were able to run school during the 2021-22 school year in person all year. Masking and quarantines were disruptions that we managed, but we learned as we went and did our best with what we knew.

Now we look ahead to the start of school for the 2022-23 school year, knowing that while the COVID-19 situation has evolved, we need to continue our commitment to using the best information we have to make the best decisions we can for the safety and health of our students and staff. We've learned to use information from local, state, and national experts alongside our own school district information and what we learn from parents.

We take it very seriously that our parents trust us with their children every day, every year, and especially this year. By working together, not alone; focusing on solutions, not problems; and thinking critically, not being critical, we can make this a great year of learning for our students and a year we can all call successful.
Matt Grose
Superintendent of Schools

Guiding Principles

1. Safety: We believe the safety of children and adults is a priority. Safety includes not only the risks associated with infection and transmission of viruses, but also the mental health, physical health, and emotional health of children that is impacted when they are separated from peers and caring adults at school. Decisions based on safety should be backed by sound data and a comprehensive, whole-child view of safety.

2. Equity: We believe that all children deserve the same access to a high quality education, regardless of their circumstances and access to support, digital tools, and resources.

3. Educational Quality: We believe that education happens best when children are instructed by a teacher and the best place for children to learn is in school whenever possible. Regular, consistent, and frequent contact with a teacher is important.

4. Community: As a school district, we provide an essential service to our community. Decisions made by the school affect parents, businesses, and the community as a whole.

#318pride

Decision Making Guidelines

A Learning Model Advisory Team was used during the 2020-21 and 2021-22 school years to advise and assist in the decisions around the school district's learning model. The team consisted of school district staff, the Itasca County Public Health Nurse, the President/CEO of a local healthcare provider, local physicians, and a School Board member. While the team has suspended meeting, it will be re-instituted should the need arise.

Commitment
The district is committed to using science, data, and guidance provided by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) as guidance for our Learning Model decisions, knowing that our local experience and local impacts are important data as well.

Decision Making Guidelines

1.   Use the data and science

     a.   We will use the most recent science, data, and guidance provided by the Minnesota Department of Health and Minnesota Department of Education to help inform decisions

     b.   We will use knowledge of local data and circumstances to inform decisions

     c.   We will consider infectiousness and transmission risk among different ages

     d.   We will take trends into account

2.   Prioritize the safety of students and staff

3.   Prioritize in-person learning, especially for younger learners

4.   Get input from stakeholders

5.   Consider the impact of decisions on students, staff, families, and the community
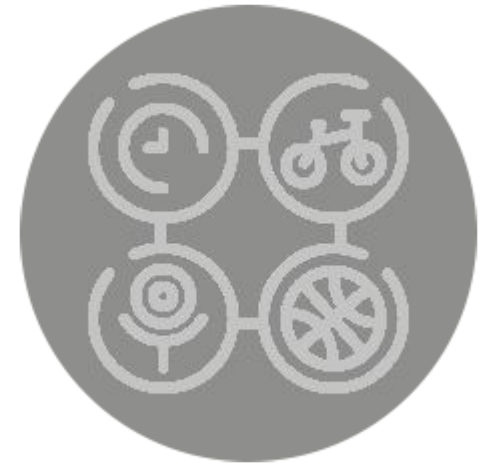
Back to School Focus Areas

Operations

Instruction

Support Services

Programs,
Activities, & Events

Screening

Screening Expectations

- Parents will be expected to screen children prior to sending them to school, checking for symptoms of illness.
- Staff will monitor students for symptoms.
- Students showing symptoms will be referred to the nurse for further evaluation.
- School nursing staff will make decisions based on up-to-date health guidance regarding illnesses and school attendance.

Operations

Based on guidelines from the MN Departments of Health and Education, Itasca County Public Health, and the CDC.

Confirmed Cases

When there is a COVID-19 Case in a School
- Positive cases in schools will be reported according to current MDH guidance.
- School districts are also required to report to parents if cases reach influenza-like illness levels.

Operations

Based on guidelines from the MN Departments of Health and Education, Itasca County Public Health, and the CDC.

Day to Day

Operations

Based on guidelines from the MN Departments of Health and Education, Itasca County Public Health, and the CDC.

Face Coverings or Masks
- Masks can we worn by staff or students at any time, but are not required.
- A mask will be provided by the school district upon request, but parents are encouraged to provide one for their child.
- Masks should be worn above the nose and below the chin. Please see this document for proper mask use.

Individual School Supplies and Equipment
- As much as possible, students should have individual supplies.

Visitors and Volunteers
- All visitors and volunteers are expected to self-screen for COVID -19 symptoms.

Transyortation

Student Transportation
- Student transportation will resume normal operations for the 2022-23 school year.

Disinfecting and Ventilation
- Standard cleaning and disinfecting will take place on a regular basis.

Operations

Based on guidelines from the MN Departments of Health and Education, Itasca County Public Health, Minnesota Association of Pupil Transportation, and the CDC.

School Meals

Operations

Based on guidelines from the MN Departments of Health and Education, Itasca County Public Health, and the CDC.

Meal Service
- Meal service will resume normal operations for the 2022-23 school year.

Traffic Flow in Lunch Line
- Regular sanitization of keypads will take place.
- Students are encouraged not to use their cell phones in line.
- Hand sanitizer will be readily available.

Learning Model Selection

Independent School District #318 will begin the school year as **in-person for elementary and middle/high school students.**

Instruction

Based on guidelines from the MN Departments of Health and Education, Itasca County Public Health, and the CDC.

Model: In-Person

The In-Person model involves students attending school every day typical length of time. While it most closely resembles a normal school experience, modifications will be made to the student experience and building to mitigate risks.

Daily Instruction Plan
- Teachers and students will follow a typical school schedule.

Recess
- Weather permitting, children will go outdoors for recess.

Instruction

Based on guidelines from the MN Departments of Health and Education, Itasca County Public Health, and the CDC.

Attendance

Instruction

Based on guidelines from the MN Departments of Health and Education, Itasca County Public Health, and the CDC.

- Teachers will take attendance hourly and daily, consistent with traditional attendance practices.

Grading

Grading

- Elementary (K-5): Grading will be consistent with traditional practices, with letter grades being comprised of daily work, assignments, and assessments.
- Middle/High School (6-12): Grading will be consistent with traditional practices, with letter grades being comprised of daily work, assignments, and assessments.

Instruction

Based on guidelines from the MN Departments of Health and Education, Itasca County Public Health, and the CDC.

Instructional Resources

Instructional Technology Support
- ISD 318 Technology staff will support families with technology needs, including individual device distribution, troubleshooting, and helping families without internet connectivity explore options.

Support Services

Based on guidelines from the MN Department of Education.

Social and Emotional Support

Student Supports

- School counseling, school social workers, and mental health supports and resources will be available for students.
- ISD 318 will continue to identify and follow referral systems for individuals who need targeted support as well as access to school-employed and community mental health professionals.
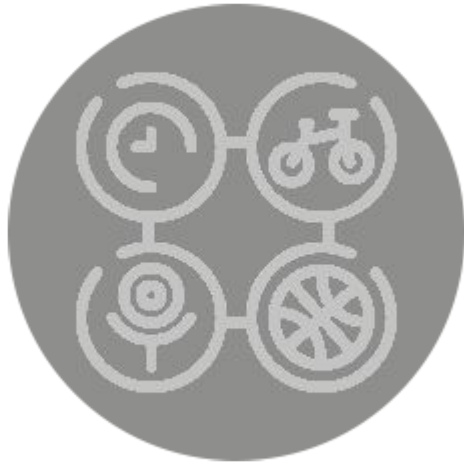
Support Services

Based on guidelines from the MN Department of Education.

Activities and Athletics

- Activities and Athletics will resume normally for the 2022-23 school year.

Important Items related to Activities:
- Students who enroll in a non-ISD #318 educational program are considered transfer students by the Minnesota High School League and will be ineligible for competition, regardless of residency or if they re-enroll in ISD #318.
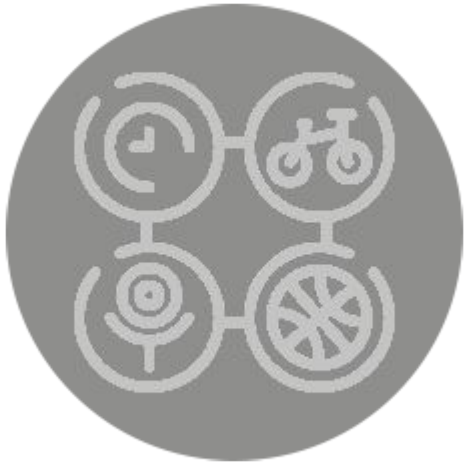
Programs, Activities, & Events

Based on guidelines from the MN Departments of Health and Education, Itasca County Public Health, and the CDC.
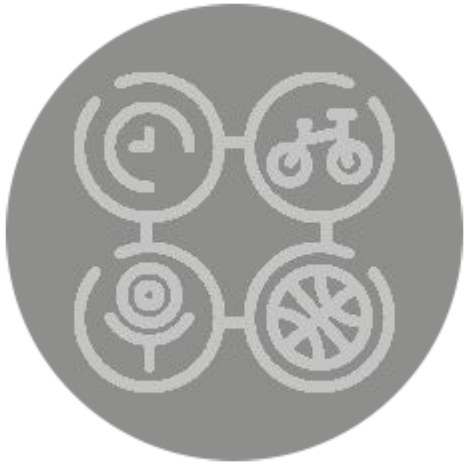
Community Education

Programs, Activities, & Events

Based on guidelines from the MN Departments of Health and Education, Itasca County Public Health, and the CDC.

- Community Education will resume normal activities for the 2022-23 school year.

Events

Programs, Activities, & Events

Based on guidelines from the MN Departments of Health and Education, Itasca County Public Health, and the CDC.

Concerts and Large Events
Events held at our school buildings will be resume normally for the 2022-23 school year.

Field Trips
- Field trips will resume as normal for the 2022-23 school year.