



August 25, 2020

Dear Bigfork High School Students and Parents:

We hope you have had a safe, healthy and fun summer. This summer has been busy planning for the upcoming school year. Our staff has been working to prepare classrooms, lessons and procedures to be as safe as possible, and we are looking forward to working with you to provide an excellent educational experience for your children!

Many of you are probably wondering what school will look like on **Tuesday, September 8**. This letter contains important items to help you start the year off right. The ISD 318 web site also has information specific to the district's COVID-19 Return to Learn Plan. Please go to <https://www.isd318.org/domain/246> to view information there.

We are excited to be planning to have students back in school for those who select this option. It may be possible for us to have different models of education—in person, 318ConnectEd (distance learning), or a combination (hybrid) – throughout the year if health conditions warrant a change. Thank you for your understanding and patience during this time of change. We will do our best to communicate any possible changes if needed in a timely manner.

Our goal is to keep all students and staff safe so that we may remain healthy and in school for the entire year. Please help us by reading and following these guidelines regarding arrival and dismissal procedures. Please note that these procedures have changed from past years.

- Students should be screened for symptoms every morning before school. If children have any of the symptoms described in the Return to Learn Plan you must keep them home, and call the school to report the absence.
- Students should arrive to school after 8:00 a.m. Main entry doors will be open at 7:45 for parents who must drop high school students off earlier than 8:00 a.m. The south elementary door will be open at 8:00; however the playground will be supervised from 7:45 to 8:00 for elementary students who must arrive before 8:00 a.m. Parents of elementary students arriving between 7:45 and 8:00 a.m. please drop your child off by the south elementary door, and have your child go directly to the playground.
- Only high school students will use the main entrance for arrival and departure. Elementary students will use the south elementary door only.
- There will be one lane of traffic for both buses and parent drop offs, so please be patient and cautious. When approaching the entry, please be ready to drop off your child safely and quickly to keep the traffic line moving. There should be no passing vehicles on the drive between the main entry and the south elementary entry.
- Students must have a mask on when entering the building. Elementary students will report directly to their classroom where breakfast will be available if they eat it. High school students may go directly to the food service area to pick up their breakfast, and may eat their breakfast in the commons (socially distanced). After eating, they should report directly to their first period classroom.
- Students in grades 6-12 may use their locker to store jackets, hats and other items, but will not be allowed to access their lockers until the end of the school day. Drop things off upon arrival to school and pick them up at the end of the day.
- Non-essential visitors will not be allowed beyond the office. This includes parents dropping off or picking up children.
- High school parents who pick children up after school should make arrangements with your child as to where you will meet them outside of the building. Elementary parents should drive up to the south elementary doors **after** buses have departed and Bigfork staff will be available to help direct your child to your car.

Thank you for helping us keep our school safe!

By now you have been enrolled in either in person learning at Bigfork School or 318ConnectEd (distance learning). Individual student schedules for both in person and 318ConnectEd will soon be available via **Parent Portal**. Whether a Bigfork student is scheduled for classes on site or through ConnectEd, they will still be enrolled as a Bigfork student. Students wishing to discuss their schedule should call Mrs. Prato on Friday, August 28, or Monday, August 31, or you may email her at: [sprato@isd318.org](mailto:sprato@isd318.org).

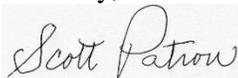
All students in grades 7-12 will again have the opportunity to receive an iPad this year as part of the **ISD 318 1:1 Student Learning Device Initiative**. Students will be issued their iPad during the first week of school. We will ask that families review a video presentation about this program and complete all required forms. You will be able to complete this requirement on-line prior to the start of school. Parents of students in grades 7-12 will receive a separate notification with more details later this week.

**Early release days will once again be every Wednesday at 2:30 p.m. to allow for professional development time for staff.** Thank you for making arrangements to allow our teachers this valuable team planning time!

I apologize for the length of this letter. We want to provide you with enough information to help answer your questions, so we have also included a separate page of important back to school information that you should review before the first day of school. Please know that we are grateful for all that you did last spring during distance learning. We are looking forward to partnering again with you this fall as we work together to provide the safest, best education for our children.

If you ever have any questions or concerns, please call our office at 218-743-3444. I know the great staff at Bigfork School is looking forward to an amazing year under very unique circumstances. Together we are Huskie strong!

Sincerely,



Scott Patrow  
Principal

Enclosures: Back to School Information Sheet  
Open House Notice

# BACK TO SCHOOL INFORMATION

**Bigfork School Mission.** Bigfork School is continually striving to improve. Our mission statement is:

*“We, the staff of Bigfork School, in dedicated partnership with parents, volunteers and community leaders, maintain our mission to prepare all students for success beyond high school. Through effective instruction, rigorous coursework and authentic assessment, students will receive challenging, college-preparatory curriculum. Our progress in this ongoing mission will be noted only when every student is performing at or above grade level in all disciplines and only when every student meets or exceeds expectations on all state assessments.”*

*“Bigfork School: Preparing our future, now.”*

**Staffing.** We are pleased to announce our new staff members to Bigfork School: Alex Bleeker (Physical Education); Michelle Johnson (Special Education Teacher); Susan Lerschlolarn (Speech); Buddy MacRostie (Custodian), and, Kaila Wass (AVID teacher). Please be sure to welcome them.

**School Website.** ISD 318 websites changed online platforms this summer. Part of this change resulted in a new URL. You can access the Bigfork School site at: [www.isd318.org/Page/9](http://www.isd318.org/Page/9) or you can go to [www.isd318.org](http://www.isd318.org) and select Bigfork School from the Our Schools menu at the top of the page. You can also check out our Facebook (Bigfork Huskies) and Twitter (@BigforkSchool) pages for more information.

**School Lunch Rates.** School meal rates are the same as last year. Rates for 2020-2021 are:

Elementary Breakfast	\$1.85	Secondary Breakfast	\$2.20	Adult Breakfast	\$2.55	Milk	\$.75
Elementary Lunch	\$2.45	Secondary Lunch	\$2.75	Adult Lunch	\$3.75		

**Please note that ISD 318 is no longer able to offer free breakfasts to students who complete the form but do not qualify.** Regardless of your eligibility, completing the form benefits your child and the district throughout the school year. **Don't wait!** Go to the following link to learn more and complete the form. <https://www.isd318.org/Page/69> . If you need assistance in applying for reduced meal rates through the Educational Benefit Form, please contact our Food and Nutrition Department at 218-327-5711.

Grab & Go Meals will be available for 318ConnectEd families to purchase Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Pick up is from 10:00 am - 10:15 am at the main entrance of the school.

**1:1 Student Devices.** This year all students in grades 7-12 will have the opportunity to receive a district-owned iPad for school use. Parents of students in grades 7-12 will receive a separate communication with details of how to complete the necessary requirements needed to complete before being issued an iPad. You may view the current policies at: <https://www.isd318.org/Page/300>

**School Pictures.** School pictures will be taken on Monday, September 21, with safety precautions in place. No team or community pictures will be taken this fall. Picture scheduling details will be shared as we get closer to the date. Picture order forms will be sent home with students on the first day of school. Please have the order forms completed with payment on picture day.

**Parent-Teacher Conferences.** Save the dates! Bigfork School will hold conferences on Monday, November 16; Wednesday, November 18; and, Thursday, November 19. Students will not have school on Thursday, November 19, and Friday, November 20. More details will follow as we approach this important event.



**We regret to inform that our annual  
Open House at Bigfork School  
has been put on hold for this year.**

**New students (including our 7<sup>th</sup> graders moving to the  
high school) may schedule an appointment to tour the  
school and see their classroom(s) during the week of  
August 31-September 4.**

**Please call the school office at 218-743-3444 for an  
appointment.**

**We look forward to continuing our Open House next  
year!**