



PRAIRIE CREEK
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Learning Scenario Overviews Prairie Creek Community School 2020-2021

Updated: August 5, 2020

Keeping All Children Safe, Helping All Children Learn - No Matter Where

Prairie Creek is committed to creating a safe, enriching environment for all students. We have created a Master Contingency Plan for three scenarios - in-person, hybrid and distance learning - as well as a distance learning only option. There is no “everything is normal” scenario. Unfortunately, this will not be a normal year. However, because of our careful, creative planning, we do believe that meaningful, memorable learning will happen at Prairie Creek this year, no matter what.

All plans conform to the guidance given to schools by the [Minnesota Department of Education](#) and the [Minnesota Department of Health](#). They also adhere to the [Safe Learning Plan](#) and the [Executive Order 2082](#). In addition, we have worked closely with the Northfield School District and the Rice County Public Health during the planning and implementation process. Finally, we need to acknowledge that the understanding of the virus is evolving and the situation continues to shift. Prairie Creek is ready to respond quickly and flexibly as the year progresses.

The following overviews are meant to help families understand the three scenarios we have planned for. It is very possible that we will move among the scenarios as the prevalence of Covid-19 shifts in our community. Creating a continuity among the scenarios was very important so that familiar elements could be woven into instruction no matter how students were learning. In addition, there is a “distance learning only” choice for families who feel that is their best option.

The scenario we are in is determined through consultation with the Minnesota Department of Health and our authorizer, Northfield Schools based on the guidelines in the [Safe Learning Plan](#).

A side by side comparison of the scenarios is a part of the Master Contingency Plan for those who would like to see the information presented in that way.

Scenario 1 - In-School Instruction

When we are in this scenario, all students are taught in the school building five days a week with the following modifications:

Physical Learning Space

- Six feet of physical distance will be maintained whenever possible. Classrooms will be modified to maximize space between students.
- Students will spend as much time as feasible in outdoor learning spaces. 4/5s will conduct the majority of their day outdoors. 2/3s will regularly do many learning activities outdoors and K/1s will be outdoors as much as possible. When outdoors, students will often be in “regular” class - one can think of this as “learning outdoors” instead of “outdoor learning” (although environmental education will be a part of the curriculum)
- Air circulation will be maximized through open windows and upgrades to the ventilation system.
- Some classrooms may shift to optimize the use of larger classroom spaces.
- Students will wear face coverings in accordance with [Executive Order 2082](#).
- Staff will wear face masks or, if necessary for instruction, face shields.
- Students and staff will wash or sanitize hands regularly. Additional hand washing and sanitizing stations will be provided. Outdoor bathrooms will be provided.
- Hallways will have directionality and bottle necks will be addressed with staggered schedules.
- High touch areas will be cleaned regularly. Students will have individual supplies and hands will be sanitized or washed after activities with shared supplies.
- Building will be cleaned and disinfected every night.

Curriculum

We have structured the curriculum in a way that will enable a more seamless transition among the three scenarios. For example, we will use Zearn math to guide math instruction so that we have a robust, comprehensive on-line tool to use with students in a variety of settings. Shared themes and strong routines will enable a smooth transition to other scenarios if needed.

Social and Emotional Learning

Teachers will use their time in person to develop relationships among students in the classroom. Managing stress, developing personal goals and routines will also be a part of the instruction.

Screening

Parents will screen students at home. An additional screening, including a non-contact temperature screen will occur at school as students enter the building.

Transportation

Students who are bussed will arrive and depart in two shifts, allowing teachers to settle students in to the day without crowding, and have the busses at $\frac{2}{3}$ capacity. Families who transport by car may also be given a staggered arrival/departure time.

Food Distribution

Students will have food delivered to their classrooms or designated eating space to minimize cross-classroom contact and to ensure maximum space between students.

Scenario 2 - Hybrid Instruction

In Hybrid Instruction, each class will be divided into two groups. One group will attend school in-person on Monday and Tuesday, the other will be in-person on Thursday and Friday. Wednesday instruction will be outside of school and focus on environmental education. On the days when a child is not in-school, they will have distance learning assignments that coordinate with their in-class instruction. Every effort will be made to coordinate schedules across grade levels (and schools) for families.

Physical Space

By teaching half classes two days a week, we will optimize student safety in a period of increased covid risk. The physical space detailed in the "Full In School" scenario will be modified in the following ways:

- Six feet of physical distance will be maintained at *all* times in school buildings. Classrooms will be further modified to assure maximum distance between children.
- All students and staff will wear masks and/or face shields (with a preference to masks) at all times except when eating.
- The school building will not be used for classes on Wednesday, allowing for extra cleaning.
- Outdoor spaces will continue to be utilized as much as possible.

Curriculum

- Teachers will design five days of instruction for every child. Two of the days will be designed for distance learning, two will be in-class instruction that dovetails with the distance learning. Wednesday, all children will receive work to do outside at home as part of our "Wild Wednesday/Forest School" program.
- By the end of the week, all students in a class will have participated in the same lessons, maintaining class cohesion.
- The curriculum will remain the same with an expanded environmental focus on Wednesday when students will be learning at home.

Social and Emotional Learning

Attention will be given to maintaining cross class relationships in creative ways. For example, writing to a classmate in the other class cohort as an assignment and then receiving a letter back when they are in distance learning.

Screening

Two step screening will continue.

Transportation

Busses will be at 50% capacity and there may be an impact on start and end times. Families who transport by car may also be given a staggered arrival/departure time.

Food Distribution

Meals will be delivered to classrooms. On a students' distance learning days, meals will be available for curbside pick up at PCCS and at a location (TBD) in Northfield.

Scenario 3 - Distance Learning

In our distance learning model, children will remain in the cohorts they were in during in-school/hybrid instruction to maintain continuity.

Technology / Internet

Students will have the choice between using a home device (if it meets needs for the online platforms) or borrowing a PCCS ipad or Chromebook. Families will need adequate internet access. Technology and internet access support will be provided as needed.

Physical Learning Space

Students should have a quiet, designated space to work. Students will be expected to be fully upright, ideally with a hard table to work on.

Curriculum

Math - Teachers will provide small group instruction and support on-line. Zearn math will provide students with strong on-line instruction that should allow them to be independent.

Language Arts - Teachers will deliver small group instruction and mini lessons. Writing instruction will be provided in a workshop or writers' circle setting. All work will adhere to essential Minnesota literacy standards. Raz-Kids, epic and a variety of on-line articles will provide reading materials.

Theme - Students will participate in all school themes which allow parents to support siblings. Theme materials will include hands-on activities.

Outdoor Learning - "Wild Wednesdays" will continue to be a part of the curriculum. Teachers will provide activities and follow up.

Social and Emotional Learning

Students will engage in daily class meetings and lessons which will focus on social and emotional connections and skills, managing stress, setting personal goals and creating routines. Faculty will check in regularly with families to ensure students are receiving the support they need.

Food Distribution

Meals will be available for curbside pick up at PCCS and at a location (TBD) in Northfield.

Child Care

Prairie Creek will provide free child care during school hours for children whose parents are Tier 1 critical workers.

Child Care Note: For in-person and hybrid scenarios, fee-based Before/After School Care will be available. In addition, during hybrid learning scenario, free child care will be provided for Tier 1 critical workers during school hours for the distance learning days each week.

Distance Learning Only Option

For some families and faculty, distance learning only is the best option. There could be underlying health issues in a family that necessitate mitigating risk or a family may just need the continuity guaranteed by choosing distance learning only. Either way, Prairie Creek will provide on-line instruction to those families. It will be a mix of video lessons, real time instruction and on-your-own activities taught by a designated Prairie Creek licensed teacher whose sole role will be “distance learning teacher.”

Students will be expected to be in attendance every day and completion of all work is also expected. The curriculum will have many affinities to what is happening in school but it will not include “live streaming” of an in-school class. **We are asking families who choose Distance Learning Only to make a commitment to be in the Distance Learning class through November 9.** Prairie Creek will, of course, work with your family if your circumstances change.

Technology / Internet

Students participating in this option will have the choice between using a home device (if it meets needs for the online platforms) or borrowing a PCCS ipad or Chromebook. Families will need adequate internet access. Technology and internet access support will be provided as needed.

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