



WINNEBAGO COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 323

304 East McNair Road

Winnebago, Illinois 61088

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Matthew Bennett
High School
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Cathy Finley
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Sean Monahan
McNair Elementary
T: 815-335-1607
F: 815-335-7574

Heather Baker
Simon Elementary
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This FAQ is provided to assist with general questions and answers regarding our Return to School Selection Process. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at ask@winnebagoschools.org.

Q. Does my selection through the School Choice Verification Form for in-person or remote learning count as registration for the 20-21 school year?

A. No. Parents/Guardians must register students through the online registration system that is explained on the district website. Filling out the School Choice Verification Form does not register your student for school. http://www.winnebagoschools.org/districtdepartments/registration/online_registration_instructions

Q: What should I expect in regards to prevention and safety for my students and staff?

A: All staff and students are required to follow five requirements set forth by IDPH and ISBE in order for school to resume in person. These include: a) Wearing of a face mask b) Social distancing to the greatest extent possible c) Symptom screening to be conducted daily d) No more than 50 students in any one school location e) Increase in cleaning and disinfecting

Q: What if my child becomes sick or needs quarantine due to exposure? What if someone in our home tests positive for COVID-19? If someone (staff/student) tests positive for COVID, will we be notified?

A: The Winnebago Health Department will make all determinations for quarantine or isolation requirements as well as clear any individual to return to work or school. The Winnebago County Health Department and the school district will be in communication with each other, as well as with parents/guardians regarding any COVID testing, quarantine, or isolation requirements as necessary due to exposure, symptoms, or confirmed COVID illness.

Q: What if someone is showing symptoms or is ill and doesn't want to get tested?

A: They would be required to quarantine as directed by the Winnebago County Health Department until they are symptom free.

Q: What are the criteria for a student needing to stay home due to illness? What are the criteria for them being able to return to school?



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A: Any student who exhibits any symptoms of COVID must stay home and the district is required to contact the Winnebago County Health Department. The health department will complete all follow up with the parents to determine next steps and when the student can return to school. The timelines will vary based on each unique situation.

Q: What are the cleaning expectations for common areas including bathrooms, classrooms, school buses, etc? Who will be responsible for cleaning these areas?

A: The district has purchased a variety of cleaning systems to utilize on a daily basis for deep cleaning of all common areas. In addition, classroom desk spaces will be disinfected prior to any new cohort entry. Buses will use electrostatic sprayer systems after each bus route. At this time, custodians, bus drivers, paraprofessionals and classroom teachers will be assisting with cleaning routines.

Q: Will masks be required for all students? What are the requirements for masks? Will the school be providing them?

A: Yes, masks will be required for all students and staff. Masks are required to cover the nose and the mouth but can be cloth or paper and must follow the dress code guidelines. All parents should plan to provide masks for their child during this pandemic period as a standard school supply and EXTRAS should be supplied in the student backpack in case the mask is soiled, etc. Masks must be washed daily at home, therefore parents are encouraged to have an adequate supply. The district will keep extra masks on hand in the event they are needed. Any student who does not wear a mask may be recommended for remote learning. This will be enforced for the safety of all.

Q: Does my student have to wear a mask on the bus?

A: Every student and staff member must wear a mask while riding the school bus and while at school. Due to the limited social distancing available on a school bus, the use of masks are critical for the safety of all. Any student who refuses to mask, or does not wear a mask for the duration of the bus ride, may be recommended for parent/guardian to arrange their own transportation or remote learning. This will be enforced for the safety of all.

Q: What if my student's class shares equipment i.e. labs?

A: Class projects and activities will be modified to eliminate the sharing of equipment or manipulatives. If this is not possible, proper sanitizing will occur between individual student use and time will be allocated for this process.



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Q: Will IEP meetings be held via Zoom or in-person?

A: IEP meetings will be held via Zoom or telephone conference as visitors are restricted from entering the school buildings. Any parent/guardian in need of a device or internet access to be able to attend a Zoom meeting, please contact your child's case manager, the director of student services, or the building principal for assistance.

Q: Will students new to the district or starting middle school be allowed to tour the building prior to the start of school?

A: We will not hold orientations or welcome back evenings as we have done in the past. If you are new to the district and your student is interested in touring the building prior to the first day of school, please contact the school building the week of August 17th for the 2020-2021 School Year Parent FAQ make arrangements. Please note, tours will be limited to students and one parent to accompany.

The District will be providing additional information regarding upcoming Back to School virtual events.

Q: What if I do not have technology? OR What if I DO have technology that I want my student to use?

A: All K-12 students will receive Chromebooks, and are expected to use the district issued device for classwork. We are exploring iPads for our PreK students.

Q: What improvements were made at the school through the CARES grant funds?

A: Technology was purchased to include Chromebooks for student use as well as technology for teachers. PPE equipment was purchased for staff and students to include masks, and hand sanitizer, etc. Cleaning equipment such as electrostatic machines and sprayers as well as cleaning supplies were also purchased for all buildings.

Q: How will students enter the buildings and how will large gatherings be avoided?

A: Specific building entry and exit will be determined for all buildings and communicated prior to the start of school. The district will determine specific passing time schedules to avoid large gatherings. In addition, there will be **no** assemblies, field trips, or other large gatherings scheduled to take place during the first semester of this school year.



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Q. Will parents receive a reimbursement for PE uniforms that were purchased?

A: Yes. Please call the school office starting August 14th to request a refund. Parents can also keep PE uniforms for later in the school year.

Q. What does a typical school schedule look like at the Middle/High school?

A. Students will have four classes each day. The classes will be roughly 70 minutes long. Passing periods will be 10 minutes allowing groups of students to stagger to their next class and providing for less students in the hall at the same time. Students will follow their schedule with class periods 1 through 4 on "A" days and periods 5 through 8 on "B" days.

Q. If we select the remote learning option, what are the earliest dates we can switch to in person learning at each school?

A At Simon Elementary the trimester ends November 25, at McNair Elementary and Winnebago Middle School the semester ends Friday, January 15 and the new semester begins Tuesday, January 19, and at Winnebago High School the semester ends Tuesday, December 22nd.

****Parents are encouraged to provide their student transportation (if this is a possibility). This would help with our transportation routes (ISBE guidance of keeping all routes to 50 students or less).**