



Palestine-Wheatley School District will follow the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) guidelines and the Arkansas Ready for Learning report issued by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in planning for re-opening in the fall (Guidelines are subject to change). We hope the following information helps answer many of the questions you may have about reopening schools.

Our goal is to provide as safe an experience as possible that includes a rich educational experience, with opportunities for social interaction and extracurricular activities while adhering to guidelines provided by the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) and the Arkansas Division of Elementary and Secondary Schools (DESE).

School will begin on **August 24, 2020**, pending further direction from Governor Hutchison. When we return PWSD will transition to a 4-day in person instructional week with 1 day of virtual instruction each week. Tentatively, each Monday students will attend school virtually beginning August 31<sup>st</sup>. We will attend school virtually on Mondays to ensure a 72-hour sanitization period in all school campus buildings. **Palestine-Wheatley School district will return to a 5-day-a-week face-to-face instructional plan starting the week of February 22<sup>nd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>, 2021.**

We will host **Open House** on August 17<sup>th</sup> at the new high school for 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students and elementary will have open house on the 18<sup>th</sup> for grades K-2, the 19<sup>th</sup> for 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup> for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, from 5-7 PM.

Governor Hutchinson mandated that all students age 10 (beginning in fourth grade) **wear a face covering** when physical distancing cannot be achieved. PWSD will follow this mandate. Students in K-3 are strongly recommended to wear a face mask. Students may bring their own mask from home. PWSD will require documentation from a health care provider to support a claim of exemption due to a medical condition or disability that prevents a person from wearing a face covering.

The district will provide **bus transportation** on previously established routes. Based on current ADH and DESE guidance and because social distancing is not feasible on buses, we strongly recommend that all students wear face coverings when riding the bus. Hand sanitizer will be used upon entering and exiting the school buses for every student. All buses will be disinfected after each trip. Parents are encouraged to bring your students when possible. Please remember that school bus transportation is a privilege and not a right.

**Social distancing** will be observed as much as feasibly possible, but at times students will be closer than the recommended 6 ft. apart. When social distancing requirements cannot be maintained such as class exchange time, etc., students will be expected to wear face coverings. We will organize classrooms and cafeteria spaces to increase the space between students when feasible.

Teachers and staff will complete a daily screening tool. We will trust our parents to screen their children: **Do not send students to school if they:**

- 1). have a temperature above of 98.6° F;
- 2). have a cough, difficulty breathing, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell; and
- 3). have been in contact with a person known to be infected with COVID-19.

PWSD will randomly check students' temperature throughout the day.

**Sanitation** and cleanliness is a high priority for our district as we return in the fall. Restrooms will be cleaned on a continuous basis throughout the day. Each room will be sanitized between transition times. We will also provide time for hand washing and hand sanitizing throughout the campuses. Students will be asked to sanitize their hands each time they leave and enter a new space and our new schedule will allow for janitorial staff to sterilize all surfaces. The 72-hour non-contamination period will also assist in the prevention of the spread of germs.

Students will continue to participate in **activity/extra curricular** classes, check out library books, and receive guidance and gifted instruction. Elementary students will have outdoor playtime with restrictions that limit the number of students they come in contact with. Additionally, students' hands will be sanitized before and after recess.

Based on current guidance, the ADH is recommending that districts limit the capacity of students in the **cafeteria**. We anticipate this may mean we will be required to adjust lunch schedules and where students eat. Proper sanitation of all areas will be completed after each meal. Procedures will not allow students to pick up utensils, self-serve, or share food. Parent and guardian visits to school will be limited to essential activity. We must minimize risk for all students. Your child may bring their lunch from home, but we are not allowing outside food to be brought to school for lunches or snacks.

Parents are encouraged to send a clear water bottle with their student to reduce the use of water fountains. The school district is looking at alternative ways to provide water for students throughout the day.

If a student comes to school **sick**, the school nurse or designee will screen the student and check the child's temperature. If the temperature is over the ADH guidance, the student will be sent home and will need to be **fever-free for 48 hours** without medication before returning to school. When the child returns to school, the school nurse or designee will check the child's temperature.

In the event an **individual tests positive**, we will follow the latest guidance from the Arkansas Department of Health as well as those recommended by the CDC. That guidance may be found at <https://bit.ly/3fOnrHX>. We will follow all state and national directives for contact tracing so families remain informed.

The Palestine Wheatley School District will be offering a **100% Virtual Learning** for the 2020-2021 school year. This is open to all students who are legal residents of the district or who have met the requirements for school choice. There will be no cost for students electing to attend school virtually. To participate, students must have reliable internet services. Students and families must commit for semester, If families select the virtual option, they should not be on campus for any reason, including extra-curricular activities. **The deadline to apply for 100% virtual for the first 9 weeks is August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The deadline for 2<sup>nd</sup> 9 weeks 100% registration is October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Links to the application can be found on the School District website, Facebook page, or can be emailed. The deadline for second semester is November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020.**

**Applications can be emailed or picked up at the school by contacting Bonnie Halbert at [bbrewer@pwsd.k12.ar.us](mailto:bbrewer@pwsd.k12.ar.us) or calling 870-581-2425.**

**If schools close** again, a plan for at-home digital learning has been developed for teachers to deliver live and/or recorded lessons. This approach will allow students who might be quarantined for a limited amount of time to continue their education even if they are not physically present in the classroom.

This plan will be reviewed and modified as needed. This plan is up-to-date as of February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021.