

Houghton Lake Community Schools

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June, 2024 Update

Houghton Lake Community Schools Return to Learn and Continuity of Services Plan 2022-2024

HLCS Students, Staff and Families:

In keeping with local rates of COVID-19 illness and transmission, HLCS will continue to offer our students full day in person teaching and learning for the regular school year as well as for summer school, and athletic practices. This 2022 - 2024 Return to Learn Plan update provides detailed guidance to ensure continued COVID-19 prevention and mitigation strategies are implemented in a way that ensures that optimal learning environments are maintained while simultaneously ensuring the health and safety for students and staff.

Please note: This plan may change and evolve as rates of illness and transmission change in our area. This plan may also need to change based on school specific illnesses. This plan will be reviewed at least every six months, and updates will be completed and shared as necessary.

The CDC will determine the COVID-19 community level for the county. Based on the community COVID-19 level, and in consultation with the RCHD and MDHHS, Houghton Lake Community Schools will determine the number of mitigation strategies to implement to balance ensuring optimal learning environments and the health and safety of our students and staff.

Houghton Lake Community Schools will comply with all local, state and federal mandates and orders. This includes orders from:

- Roscommon County Health Department
- MDHHS
- CDC

Instructional Format

At this time, the HLCS district plans to continue full face to face in person instruction for our K-12 students. Students in grades 9-12 who need a virtual option may enroll in the HLCS Community Education program which houses the virtual school.

Educational Goals

The NWEA assessments in reading and mathematics will be administered to all students three times per year, once in the first nine weeks of the school year, during the middle of the year, and again prior to the last day of school. Formative assessments will provide information to inform our progress toward our goals over the course of the year. As a means of continuous improvement in teaching & learning, all teachers will receive professional development in, and commit to the use of, the formative assessment process.

Goal 1 - All students (K-11) will improve performance in Reading/ELA from Fall to Spring as measured by NWEA*.

- All teachers will use the formative assessment process to support adjustment to teaching & learning, to support meaningful student progress towards mastery of Reading/ELA academic standards.
- Results from Reading/ELA benchmark assessments, local Reading/ELA summative assessments, and formative assessment will be continuously discussed and analyzed by staff.

Goal 2 - All students (K-11) will improve performance in Mathematics from Fall to Spring as measured by NWEA.

- All teachers will use the formative assessment process to support adjustment to teaching & learning, to support meaningful student progress towards mastery of Math academic standards.
- Results from Math benchmark assessments, local Math summative assessments, and formative assessment will be continuously discussed and analyzed by staff.

In addition to the two goals above, all students in grades 9-12, as well as other subject areas in grade K-8 not measured by NWEA, will be expected to demonstrate at least 60% mastery of established course content for each assigned course (passing, earning credit). This achievement will be measured through regular assignments, quiz scores, interim assessments, and/or a comprehensive final exam according to the district's grading policies and procedures. The collective passing rate for these courses will be reported mid-year and at year's end to measure progress.

Mental Health Supports

The district employs a school nurse, two school social workers, a gen ed social worker, behavior coaches, and two guidance counselors, one Student Support Specialist, and one Student Support Network Coordinator to assist our students.

Addressing learning loss

The district offers after school tutoring, summer school, free after school child care for K-6 grade students, and ongoing credit recovery classes. The staff assist students in making a plan to remediate learning loss early and often to ensure no one falls through the cracks.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

HLCS will continue to follow regular cleaning procedures and disinfect restrooms, common touch points, and common areas. When necessary, the district will fog classrooms and common areas to reduce spread of illness.

COVID-19 Testing

COVID-19 testing is not required, but is available to all students and families through the school based health clinic, and local health providers.

Face Masks

Masks are available for all students, staff, volunteers and visitors, but are not required.

Food Service

The district will continue normal food service operations in all schools

Gathering and Facility Use

There are no restrictions on gatherings or use of facilities

Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette

Hygiene will be encouraged with soap available in all restrooms and hand sanitizer available in all classrooms. Boxes of tissue paper will be available in classrooms.

Offices

All district offices are open for normal business and visitors. Visitors and guests are allowed in all district buildings, but first are asked to check in the main office to sign in, state the purpose of the visit, and receive permission to enter the building.

Social Distancing

Social distancing is not required

Health screening

Parents / Guardians should conduct a daily wellness check of their student(s) prior to sending them to school.

Student illness

Students who are sick, or who are exhibiting the symptoms outlined below should remain home until they are symptom and fever free for 24 hours without the aid of medication or as advised by their doctor.

- Fever of 100 or greater
- Sore throat
- New onset of cough
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Abdominal pain
- New onset of headache
- Loss of taste or smell
- Congestion or runny nose
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Unexplained fatigue
- Severe muscle or body aches

Transportation

Normal bus transportation will be offered to all resident students.

Vaccinations

MDHHS, RCHD, and the CDC recommend COVID-19 vaccination as the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. At this time, the HLCS district is not requiring staff or students to be vaccinated.

Sincerely,

Ben Williams, Superintendent, Houghton Lake Community Schools