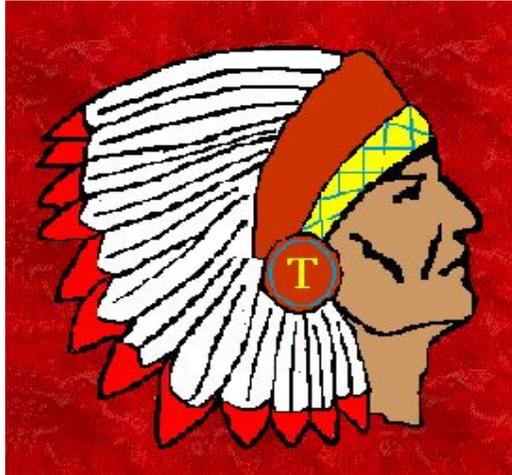


# Tarkio Elementary

## COVID Amendment - Student Handbook 2020-2021



### **School Day** Handbook p. 3

*Arrival*-Students will not be allowed to come to school before 7:45 AM. This will eliminate congestion in the mornings. ES students will go straight to their classroom.

*Departure*-Students will dismiss at staggered times to avoid congestion at the end of the day. The ES will dismiss bus riders at 2:55. Walkers will dismiss once the buses are gone, and car riders will dismiss at 3:05. Preschool students and siblings will be picked up on the East side by the preschool.

### **Parents/Visitors During Instructional Time** Handbook p. 6

No one will be allowed to enter the building, unless it is deemed absolutely necessary. If you need to pick up your child, call the office and they will have your student waiting at the door. If you have something to drop off, place it in the basket and buzz the office. If you have something to pick up, it will be placed in the basket for you. If someone has to enter the building, they will be asked to sign in, note the time in and out, and record their building location for contact tracing purposes. Masks will be required for all visitors.

### **Attendance**-Policy 2310/2340 Handbook p. 6

Normal attendance policies will be in effect, except for COVID related absence; however, there will be no attendance awards or finals as long as we are fighting COVID-19. **PLEASE KEEP YOUR CHILD HOME IF THEY ARE SICK!**

*Exclusion from School*-Students and employees will be excluded from school if they test positive for COVID-19 or exhibit one or more of the following symptoms:

- 1) a) A fever of 100.4 degrees or greater b) cough c) shortness of breath or difficulty breathing d) chills e) repeated shaking with chills f) muscle pain g) headache h) sore throat i) loss of taste or smell
- 2) Additional medical inquiries of staff and students is possible. When a student is sick, we will ask what symptoms they are experiencing.
- 3) Siblings or other students living in the same household that exhibit symptoms will be excluded from school.
- 4) The district may recommend a student or staff member self-quarantine for 14 calendar days if they have had close contact with a person with COVID symptoms or diagnosis of COVID, or if they have recently traveled somewhere considered a “hot spot” by the CDC. All identified close contacts of a confirmed COVID case will be in quarantine for 14 days from their last exposure.

*Return to School*-Students and staff may return to school when they satisfy the recommendations of the CDC. They must meet all conditions listed.

- 1) Tested Person: A tested person, with a positive test, will remain in isolation for 10 days from the day their symptoms begin. In addition, they must have at least 24 hours of improved symptoms and no fever or use of fever reducing medications. If symptoms are not improved, the case will remain in isolation for additional days.
- 2) Untested Person: If a person is not tested, they must be fever free for 72 hours, other symptoms must improve and at least ten calendar days have passed since symptoms started.
- 3) Tested Positive, but asymptomatic- - An asymptomatic confirmed case will be in home isolation for 10 days from their test date. The actual test date is day 0. For example, if a teacher tests positive on August 1, the teacher will be eligible to return to school on August 12, as long as they remain asymptomatic.
- 4) Students and staff may return if a health care provider approves them in writing. We prefer all exclusions are approved to return by a health care provider.

*When a positive case is identified within a school building:*

- 1) The Atchison County Health Department will be notified immediately to assess the risk created by the positive case being in the building.
- 2) The school community (parents, staff) will be notified of a positive case.
- 3) 1-5 day closure is possible to allow time to assess risk, contact those who may be affected and for cleaning and disinfecting. Evaluation will be done on a case-by-case basis.
- 4) Students and staff members considered to be in close contact with the positive case are required to quarantine for 14 days.

- 5) All school activities will be canceled when school is not in session.
- 6) Depending on the level of risk created, increased measures of precautions may be implemented. This could mean implementation of daily screenings, restricting activities with equipment such as jump ropes and balls, increased use of masks, or in extreme cases, alternating attendance days for students, so there is less exposure.
- 7) Remote learning will take place when school buildings are closed.
- 8) Closures due to COVID will be communicated the same as inclement weather closures. Text alerts and news stations will be utilized.

*When community spread is moderate to substantial* another level of precautions may be implemented. (Daily screenings/temperature taking, wearing masks at all times, adjustments to schedules, or alternating dates of attendance, etc.). The more substantial the spread, the more likely buildings will be closed for extended periods and remote learning will be implemented.

### **Transportation** Handbook p. 9

Any help you can give us with transporting your children to and from school is greatly appreciated! The less students on the bus, the less exposure created. The bus is the tightest space we have to work with when it comes to social distancing and sharing space. Students who ride the bus will be required to wear a mask. (Drivers are also required to wear a mask.) Students will have a seating arrangement and families will be required to sit together. Buses will load back to front, and when possible, unload from front to back. Sanitizing will be done after each route. When the weather allows and there are no safety concerns, windows will be open. Transporting your students to and from school is the best option to allow space for those who have to ride district transportation. Students living one mile or less from school will have to walk to and from school, or parents will have to pick up and drop off.

### **Parties** Handbook p. 30

No outside treats will be allowed for Birthday this year. Classroom teachers and friends will continue to recognize children on their special day in special ways.

### **Meal Service** Handbook p. 32

No parents or outside visitors will be allowed to eat breakfast or lunch with their child. The cafeteria is taking precautionary measures as well. K-12 breakfasts will be grab-n-go in their respective buildings. Students will have three menu choices every day: hot lunch, salad or sandwich/wrap. All meals will be served using disposable trays and utensils. There will be no self-service food bars. All condiments will be pre-packaged. Elementary school lunch shifts will be staggered so students will be spaced as far apart as possible. Seating arrangements and cohort grouping is necessary. To avoid congestion in the lunchroom, HS meals will be delivered to their homerooms where students can be spaced 6 feet apart. An alternate location will be set up for those who are not comfortable eating in the cafeteria at this time. In the event school is closed, food service will still be available at designated pick up spots.

## **Illness or Accident During School Hours** Handbook p. 32

Isolation rooms will be available for students who are symptomatic and waiting to go home. Symptomatic students will be required to wear a mask.

### **Additional Information:**

The following precautions are a baseline response to help keep COVID spread none to minimal.

*Enhanced sanitizing and cleaning* is always done to avoid the spread of any communicable disease, but much more diligence is needed to protect against COVID-19. Students will wash hands more frequently and hand sanitizer will be available to use throughout the day. Students will wipe their desks, keyboards and personal items throughout the day. No sharing of any personal supplies such as Chromebooks, pencils, crayons, scissors, play-doh, etc. is allowed. Students will need to bring their own water bottles, as water fountains are closed. The district has put in new water bottle filling stations for students. The custodians have prepared an enhanced cleaning and sanitizing plan as well. Several pieces of equipment were purchased to allow for more efficient disinfecting and sanitizing, specifically a sprayer for items such as locker rooms, locker handles, door knobs, playground equipment, railings, desks, etc.

*Social Distancing*-Students will be 6 feet apart unless 6 feet is not possible, then students will be as far apart as possible. Plans are being made to provide as much distance as possible in situations where students tend to congregate, such as between classes, lunch, arrival to school and departure. Plexiglass dividers will be used when students are learning in close contact, such as group work or projects.

*Situational Awareness*-Students will remain with their homeroom class to allow for efficient contact tracing in the event a positive case is identified within the school building. Student desks will be spaced as far apart as possible, all desks will face the same way, and students will have seating arrangements. Seating arrangements are expected in any circumstance where 6 foot distancing is not possible. Staggering of schedules for lunch and release of classes will help limit contact between persons.

*Masks*-The district will follow the most recent *Guidance for K-12 School Administrators on the Use of Face Coverings in Schools* from the CDC and the DHSS. There will be times during the school day when students will be required to wear a mask (group work, hallways, etc.), but will not be required at all times. Students will need to provide their own masks for school. We understand some individuals have different needs when it comes to wearing masks. This will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

*Physical Activity*-Physical activity is encouraged by the resources mentioned above, so students will have PE and recess. The instructors for these classes and activities have plans in place to follow necessary precautions. If possible, these activities will be outside. As well, activities will be no contact. If equipment for recess and PE is used, it will be sanitized between classes.