



Festus R-VI School District



**Return To School
2nd Semester
2021-2022**



Festus R-VI School District

Dr. Link Luttrell
Superintendent

Dr. Nicki Ruess
Asst. Superintendent

Mr. Jonathan T. Earnhart
Asst. Superintendent

December 17, 2021

Dear R-VI Stakeholder,

As the Festus R-VI School District is set to commence the second semester of the 2021-2022 school year on January 4, 2022, it is the goal of the District to remain in school with a sense of normalcy. As the District has learned over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, any plan must be flexible and adjusted throughout the school year as conditions warrant.

At this time, the Festus R-VI School District plans to return for the second semester of the 2021-22 school year with the following guidance:

Thresholds: At this time, the District is removing the thresholds that would require the **immediate** implementation of mandatory masks. The change allows the District greater flexibility to implement mitigation strategies to curb an outbreak of COVID-19 in the District. Although specific thresholds are removed from the plan, they will remain as an unofficial benchmark to help guide decisions.

Facial Coverings: Facial coverings will remain **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED** but **optional** for all students and staff. While facial coverings are a personal and family decision, the Festus R-VI School District highly recommends the wearing of facial coverings, especially for those who are not yet vaccinated. However, per Federal mandate, facial coverings remain a requirement on school buses.

Mitigation Strategies: Students and staff will be encouraged to socially distance at least 3 feet when possible. Students and staff are encouraged to self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms. If students or staff are sick they should remain at home until they are symptom-free for at least 24 hours. Frequently touched surfaces will continue to be sanitized often. Weekly spraying with electrostatic sprayers will occur in classrooms and buses. Sanitizers and other supplies will be accessible to students and staff. Water fountains have been set to function both as a drinking fountain and bottle filler station. Students are still encouraged to bring a water bottle to have throughout the day and fill as needed.

Athletics & Activities: At this time, no spectator limits for after school/evening athletics and other events other than those necessary to comply with local fire code.

Exclusion from School: Per Board Policy EBB (*Communicable Diseases*), anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 will be excluded from school for a minimum of ten days from symptom onset or from the date of the test if no symptoms are present.

Close Contacts: Those exposed to a positive COVID-19 case will no longer be excluded from school as long as they remain symptom free. Household members of positive cases are **strongly recommended** to stay home from school for ten days, from the date of the last point of contact with the positive case, as long as they remain symptom free. Over the last two school years, there have been noticeable trends showing the virus spreads more within a household than in classrooms.

District staff will continue to contact trace for any close contacts to positive COVID-19 cases. Parents of students exposed at school will be notified by the District. If a student is absent from school because of COVID, they will be provided make-up work during their absence. Accommodations will be provided as needed or dictated by the Individual Education Plan.

More specific details regarding the district-wide plan can [be found here](#).

Educationally,

Link W. Luttrell

Link W. Luttrell, Ed. D
Superintendent

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Tomorrow's Challenges

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ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Visitors/Volunteers

Visitors to the building will continue to be limited to meetings and volunteer opportunities pre-arranged with the building administration and classroom teachers. Classroom teachers will have the option of having one volunteer during the day, *if they choose to do so*. In order to volunteer or visit you will need to be

registered with the school's Raptor Security System and will have to sign into that system. There is an initial registration process that must be completed at the main office with one of the building's secretaries. The process takes less than a minute to complete. Parents who need to pick students up during school hours are allowed to enter the school and sign their child out. As always, please have your ID ready when you need to pick up your child.

Class Parties

Class parties will continue with the Valentines Party. Students will be allowed one guest and no siblings. Teachers will ask for a guest list. In order to attend, the named guest must be registered in the school's Raptor Security System. There is an initial registration process that must be completed at the main office with one of the building's secretaries. The process takes less than a minute to complete. No one will be allowed to attend the party who is not on the guest list and who has not registered with the Raptor System.

Cafeteria

Students will eat in the cafeteria. Tables will be assigned to classes and students will sit according to the classroom seating chart. Visitors will not be allowed at lunch at this time.

Classroom

Students will continue to have assigned seating.

Concerts/Assemblies/PTO Events

At this time, there will be planning and scheduling concerts, assemblies, and PTO events which will allow parents to attend. Though there may be some restrictions (*limited number of people in attendance per student*), the importance of parents being allowed to attend their child's activities and events is essential.

Recess

No restrictions at this time.

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Intermediate School

Cafeteria

The number of students eating in the cafeteria will not be limited. Students and classes will return to typical seating arrangements. Outside food is not permitted. Parents will not be allowed to bring in outside food for their child or eat with them during lunch.

Classroom

Classrooms will continue to have assigned seats and keep a distance of 3 feet when possible. We will continue to reevaluate throughout the second semester.

Concerts/Assemblies

At this time, there will be no restrictions on planning and scheduling concerts, assemblies, and PTO events which allow parents to attend. Though there may be some restrictions (*limited number of people in attendance per student*), the importance of parents being allowed to attend their child's activities and events is essential.

Recess/Advisory

No restrictions at this time.

After-school Activities

No restrictions at this time

Visitors

In an effort to promote social distancing and the safety of students and staff, visitors to the building will continue to be limited. If you are allowed to visit you will need to be registered with the school's Raptor Security System and will have to sign into that system. There is an initial registration process (takes less than a minute) which must be completed at the main office with one of our secretaries. Parents who need to pick students up during school hours are allowed to enter the school and sign their child out. As always, please have your ID ready when you need to pick up your child.



Middle School

Classrooms

Classrooms will continue to have assigned seats and keep a distance of 3 feet when possible.

After School Activities/Concerts/Etc.

At this time, there will be no restrictions on planning and scheduling after school activities which allow parents to attend.

Though there may be some restrictions

(limited number of people in attendance per student), the importance of parents being allowed to attend their child's activities and events is essential. When possible events will be live streamed to assist in viewership of specific after school activities that normally do not have attendance restrictions.

Visitors

In an effort to promote social distancing and the safety of students and staff, visitors to the building will continue to be limited. If you are allowed to visit you will need to be registered with the school's Raptor Security System and will have to sign into that system. There is an initial registration process (takes less than a minute) which must be completed at the main office with one of our secretaries. Parents who need to pick students up during school hours are allowed to enter the school and sign their child out. As always, please have your ID ready when you need to pick up your child.



High School

Classroom

Classrooms will continue to have assigned seats and keep a distance of 3 feet when possible.

Concerts/Assemblies

At this time, there will be no restrictions on planning and scheduling concerts, assemblies which allow parents to

attend. Though there may be some restrictions (*limited number of people in attendance per student*), the importance of parents being allowed to attend their child's activities and events is essential.

After-school Activities and Athletics

No restrictions at this time

Visitors

In an effort to promote social distancing and the safety of students and staff, visitors to the building will continue to be limited. If you are allowed to visit you will need to be registered with the school's Raptor Security System and will have to sign into that system. There is an initial registration process (takes less than a minute) which must be completed at the main office with one of our secretaries. Parents who need to pick students up during school hours are allowed to enter the school and sign their child out. As always, please have your ID ready when you need to pick up your child.



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Upon review of the Festus R-VI 'Return to School' plan, questions can be directed to the following individuals:

Specific Mitigation protocols can be directed to the appropriate school principal at the school your child is enrolled

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| ▪ Festus Elementary | Dr. Darin Siefert | siefertdarin@festusedu.com |
| ▪ Festus Intermediate | Mr. Spencer Kearns | kearnsspencer@festusedu.com |
| ▪ Festus Middle | Mr. Jacob Munoz | munozjacob@festusedu.com |
| ▪ Festus High | Dr. Karl Shininger | shiningerkarl@festusedu.com |

Questions related to the overall plan and exclusion from school can be directed to:

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| ▪ Coordinator of Student & Staff Wellness | Mrs. Lindsey Roth | rothlindsey@festusedu.com |
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Questions related to Teaching & Learning can be directed to:

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| ▪ Asst. Supt. Teaching & Learning | Dr. Nicki Ruess | ruessnicki@festusedu.com |
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Questions related to the Federal Mandate of a Facial Covering being required on a School Bus can be directed to:

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| ▪ R-VI Director of Transportation | Mrs. Joan Rupp | ruppjoan@festusedu.com |
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Questions related to athletics and activities can be directed to:

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| ▪ R-VI Athletics/Activities Director | Mr. Eric Allen | alleneric@festusedu.com |
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