



Festus R-VI School District



**Return To School
Plan
2021-2022**



Festus R-VI School District

Dr. Link Luttrell
Superintendent

Dr. Nicki Ruess
Asst. Superintendent

Mr. Jonathan T. Earnhart
Asst. Superintendent

With commencing of the 2021-2022 school year, it is the goal of the Festus R-VI School District to return to some 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 change.

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

Facial coverings: Facial coverings will be **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 are required on school buses.**

A possible return to mandatory facial coverings may be necessary if more than 1% of the students and staff within the R-VI campus community are positive with COVID-19 at any single point in time. A single building may require facial coverings if 2% of a building's students and staff are positive with COVID-19 at any single point in time.

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 will be utilized as bottle fill stations only. Students are 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. However, as with facial coverings, should the percentage of positive cases within the campus community reach an established level, facial coverings will be required for indoor events..

Isolation & quarantine: Anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 will be required to isolate. A fully vaccinated student who is a close contact with a positive case will NOT be required to quarantine as long as they remain symptom-free. **Unvaccinated students who are close contacts of a positive case will be required to quarantine** unless both parties were wearing masks properly. Due to R-VI having no formal control with eliminating quarantine, strong consideration should be given to the decision on whether or not to wear a facial covering. If a student is required to isolate or quarantine because of COVID, they will be allowed to do make-up work online during their absence.

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

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Administrators at each attendance center have worked collaboratively to develop plans specific to their school situation. Those plans particular to your student's attendance center can be viewed within the pages ahead.



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Open House

Open house will occur on Tuesday, August 17th. Students will be allowed **TWO** adults to accompany them to their classroom. Siblings will be permitted, but must remain with their family.

Open House Schedule by **last name of oldest child in the elementary:**

5:00pm - 6:15pm: Last name starts with **A-M**

6:15pm - 7:30pm: Last name starts with **N-Z**

Visitors

At the start of the school year, visitors will not be allowed into the building during the school day. However, it is our goal/aim to be able to allow visitors for lunches and parent volunteers back into the building once a smooth and safe start has been accomplished. Parents who need to pick students up during school hours are allowed to enter the building and sign their student out. As always, have your ID ready when you arrive to pick up your child.

Class Parties

It is the goal to be able to allow parent visitors into the building for our traditional classroom parties (*Halloween, Christmas, Valentine's*) but that decision along with specifics will be made as the date for each party approaches. Class parties/celebrations in all likelihood may have some restrictions and limit the number of individuals in attendance.

Grade Level Parent Nights

Parent Night will be held virtually. Teachers will send home specific classroom/grade level information/expectations via email or some type of virtual platform.

Cafeteria

Students will eat in the cafeteria. Tables will be assigned to classes and students will sit according to the classroom seating chart.

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.



Intermediate School

Open House - Wed. Aug. 18 - 5pm-7pm
- In order to limit the amount of people in the building at one time, open house times will be staggered.

Open house schedule by last name:

5pm-6pm - Last name begins **N-Z**

6pm-7pm - Last name begins **A-M**

This will help to coordinate with families of middle school students as well, as their

last name letters are the opposite times.

- Only two adults, plus siblings allowed. Additional specific classroom/grade level information will be sent by teachers via email during the first week of school.

Grade Level Parent Nights

Parent Night will be held virtually. Teachers will send home specific classroom/grade level information/expectations via email or through their Google Classroom.

Cafeteria

The number of students eating in the cafeteria will be limited by implementing a rotating schedule for students to eat in the cafeteria and the classroom. This will work the same way as last school year. Cafeteria procedures will be evaluated and adjusted accordingly. Parents will not be allowed to bring in outside food for their child or eat with them during lunch.

Classroom

Classrooms will continue to keep a distance of 3 feet when possible.

Concerts/Assemblies

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/Advisory

No restrictions at this time.

After-school Activities

No restrictions at this time

Visitors

At the start of the new school year, outside visitors will not be allowed during the school day. However, it is the goal to begin allowing visitors for lunches and parent volunteers once a safe return to school has been accomplished. 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

Open House

Open house will occur on Wednesday August 18th. Students will be allowed **ONE** person to accompany them during their open house tour. You will have the opportunity to walk through a shortened schedule with your student. In addition, there will be the opportunity to meet all of your child's teachers, locate classrooms, lockers, and ask questions.

Open House Schedule by **Last Name**:

5:00pm - 6:05pm: Last name starts with **A-M**

6:30pm - 7:35pm: Last name starts with **N-Z**

Each tour will begin in your PAWS classroom. (*Schedules will be available in the [student](#) and [parent portals](#)*) beginning Monday, August 16.

Chromebooks

Chromebooks will be handed out on the first day of school.

After School Activities/Concerts/Etc.

At this time, all available sports, band and choir concerts, and clubs are scheduled to proceed. However, do know that depending on other factors, adjustments could be necessary. 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.

Visitors

No outside visitors will be permitted into the building during the school day. Parents who need to pick students up during school hours will be allowed to enter the building and sign their student out.



High School

Open House

Open House at Festus High School will be on Tuesday, August 17th, starting at 6:00 p.m. The main goal of Open House at this level is to help students become more comfortable with their schedule and layout of the building before the first day of school. If your child is already comfortable with the building or is a freshman and attends Freshman Kickoff

earlier that day, attendance at Open House may not be necessary. Students will be allowed **ONE** person to accompany them during their open house tour. Teachers will also be posting all relevant class information in Google Classroom by the first day of school.

Students and parents will follow a shortened bell schedule beginning in their advisory teachers classroom. At 7:30, there will be an informational meeting for anyone interested in learning about the A+ program. Schedules will be available in the [student](#) and [parent portals](#) by Monday, August 16th.

Freshman Kickoff

It is strongly recommended that all incoming freshmen attend Freshman Kickoff on Tuesday, August 17th, from 10:00 am - 11:30 am at the high school. Freshman Kickoff is a tremendous opportunity for incoming freshmen to become familiar with the building by walking through their class schedules, meeting their advisory teachers, being introduced to their student council representatives, and learning the basics of our building procedures. Being acquainted with their surroundings before the first day of class reduces the anxiety many adolescents feel as they begin their high school career. Transportation for this event is not provided.

Chromebooks

Students can pick up their Chromebooks from their advisory teacher during Open House or on the first day of school.

After School Activities

At this time, all available sports and clubs are scheduled to proceed. However, do know that depending on other factors, adjustments could be necessary.



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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 | munozejacob@festusedu.com |
| ▪ Festus High | Dr. Karl Shininger | shiningerkarl@festusedu.com |

Questions related to the overall plan, Quarantine Isolation protocols & established benchmark percentages 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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