

Health and Safety Measures for the 2021-2022 School Year

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes Section 123B.09 vests the care, management, and control of independent districts in the school board; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of Independent School District 548 [hereinafter the “Superintendent”] is responsible for the management of the schools, the administration of all School District policies, and is directly accountable to the School Board; and

WHEREAS, when responsibilities are not specifically prescribed nor School District policy applicable, the Superintendent shall use personal and professional judgment, subject to review by the School Board, pursuant to School District Policy 302, *Superintendent*; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) and the Minnesota Department of Health (“MDH”) have determined that the COVID-19 pandemic is currently ongoing and may remain ongoing for an unknown time; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Education (“MDE”) has issued and may continue to issue written guidance for Minnesota schools on educational issues related to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the MDH has issued and may continue to issue written guidance for Minnesota schools on public health issues related to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent and the administration of the School District have conferred with the School Board regarding COVID-19 health and safety measures, the current CDC, MDE, and MDH requirements for each, and other relevant information; and

WHEREAS, based upon the collective consideration of these factors, the Superintendent has recommended to the School Board that

Pelican Rapids School District 548 Opening Plan 2021-2022

The Pelican Rapids School District 548 is hopeful to return to a near normal school year in the fall of 2021. These are the current plans, regarding face coverings, social distancing, and vaccinations, etc., for Pelican Rapids School District 548, who are collaborating with Otter Tail County Public Health, Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), and Minnesota Department of Education (MDE).

These plans are subject to change pending recommendations from Otter Tail County Public Health, as well as new state and/or federal mandates.

Schedule

- School will be in-person with regular start and end times for each building.

Face Coverings

- Per guidelines from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), and the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) face coverings are *recommended* for those who are vaccinated and not vaccinated.
- Students will need to have face coverings, as they are still *required* while on the school bus per federal mandates regarding public transportation.
- Masks will be available for staff, students & visitors.

Social Distancing

- Staff will work hard to maintain the minimum 3-foot social distancing but 6 feet is best practice.

Vaccines

- Pelican Rapids School District 548 is not *requiring* COVID-19 Vaccinations for students, staff, volunteers, or visitors.

Health Screening and Quarantine

- Self-screening for symptoms of illness will be *required*. If you are ill, stay home and report your symptoms to the school nurse.
- Schools are mandated to report any positive COVID-19 cases to the MDH.
- Students and staff with confirmed cases of COVID-19 or exposures will be asked to quarantine or isolate based on recommendations from MDH. Vaccinated individuals will not be required to quarantine in most cases.

Good Hygiene

- Students will continue to be encouraged to practice good hygiene by washing their hands with soap and water during bathroom breaks and before meals and snacks.
- Hand sanitizer will continue to be available in each classroom as well as throughout the buildings.

Food Service/Meals

- The Pelican Rapids School District 548 has established material and food procedures that meet the requirements of the MDH, Food and Drug Administration and the MDE.
 - Pelican Rapids High School - Students will eat lunch and breakfast in the commons area.
 - Viking Elementary School - Students will eat breakfast in their classrooms (besides Kindergarten who will eat in the cafeteria) and all students will eat lunch in the cafeteria.

Cleaning

- Cleaning protocols will continue to support mitigation of COVID-19. Drinking fountains and water refills stations will be open for the students.

Facilities

- HVAC systems will be running at maximum capacity to ensure high air flow and air quality.

Accommodations for Special Education

- Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies and procedures will be provided. Parents/guardians should contact their child's case manager to inquire about accommodations.

Mental Health

- The Pelican Rapids School System acknowledges mental health is an important piece in achieving educational goals. We want to remind our school family about the following resources:
 - Pelican Rapids School District contracts with LSS of MN for the Minnesota School Linked Mental Health program (https://mn.gov/dhs/assets/school-linked-mental-health_tcm1053-333534.pdf).
 - This program allows three mental health professionals to work with eligible students within the school. If you know a student who might benefit from

services or have questions about the program, please reach out to Jordan Solheim (Jordan.solheim@lssmn.org) or Lindsey Ness (lindsey.ness@lssmn.org).

- Pelican Rapids High School Counselor is Lauren Siebels (lsiebels@vikes.us) or 218-863-5910.
- The Ottertail County Crisis Mental Health Unit is available all day, every day, 24/7, for individuals having a psychiatric or mental health crisis. Simply dial 1-800-223-4512.
- The Crisis Text Line is a free statewide suicide prevention service available anytime and anywhere in Minnesota. Text MN to 741741 to receive crisis counseling and connections to local community resources.

be implemented at the commencement of the 2021-2022 school year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 548 as follows:

Section 1: The Superintendent is hereby directed to implement the following health and safety measures to open the 2021-2022 school year:

Pelican Rapids School District 548 Opening Plan 2021-2022

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Section 2: The Superintendent is hereby authorized, after consultation with the School Board Chair and notification to the School Board, to select and implement different health and safety measures for the School District or any specific school buildings without School Board action if the

Superintendent reasonably believes that prompt implementation of different health and safety measures is necessary, and that constraints of time and public health considerations render it impractical to hold a School Board meeting to approve the implementation. The health and safety measures selected and implemented by the Superintendent shall continue in effect unless and until the School Board, in consultation with the Superintendent and appropriate school district staff and public health officials, deems it in the best interest of the School District and its students to implement different health and safety measures.

Section 3: The Superintendent will provide regular updates to the School Board regarding the School District's efforts to implement COVID-19 related educational and public health guidance issued by the MDE and the MDH, respectively.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2021.

Roll Call Vote

School Board Chair

School Board Clerk