

Happy Valley School District

Reopening School Plan for 2020-2021



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INTRODUCTION

COVID-19 has had a tremendous impact on our entire community. We are grateful for our families who have partnered with us to continue their children's education through distance learning in the final months of the 19-20 school year. As we prepare to start school with Distance Learning in August, we look forward to feedback and collaboration with our stakeholders: Parents, Staff and Board members. This document is based on guidance and information taken from the California Department of Education [CDE Guidebook for Safe Reopening](#), the California Department of [Health CDPH Guidance](#), American Academy of Pediatrics: [Guidance for School Re-entry](#) and multiple stakeholder meetings throughout the summer.

Happy Valley is committed to supporting the academic, health and social emotional needs of our students, in the safest way possible. Ideally, we would welcome everyone back but given the continued risk of COVID 19 that persists in Santa Cruz and across California, returning to school with Distance Learning is the safest way to keep families, staff and students healthy.

TIMELINE

March 13 --Happy Valley School closes to prevent the spread of COVID-19

March 16-20--Professional Development, teacher collaboration and development of continuity of learning plans

March 23--Distance Learning begins

April 1--Determination to stay in distance learning by County Health Officer

June 5--Reopening guidance provided by State

June 18—Parent Survey sent out

June-24-July 19--Draft plan and gathering of options and information.

July 10—Second survey out to parents

July 20—Letter to all families that HVS will start the year in distance learning

July 22-28—Meeting with staff to pivot to distance learning.

July 29--Final Report to the HVS Board

July 30-August 11- Staff implementation of **Distance Learning (PHASE 1)**

August 12--2020-2021 School year begins.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Keep students, staff and families safe and healthy.

Ensure equitable access and opportunities for all students

Include flexibility and options that meet the needs of our students.

Engage and communicate with stakeholders

Leverage county and community resources

Comply with public health directives and guidelines.

NEW GUIDELINES AS OF JULY 20,2020—MOVE TO DISTANCE LEARNING

Due to the continued upward trend of confirmed COVID-19 cases in California, Governor Newsom set forth a new mandate for California K-12 schools last week that provides long awaited clarity to educators and parents as we look to the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year. Newsom's order mandates all counties who qualify for the [California Department of Public Health COVID-19 Monitoring List](#) to continue with distance learning only until they are able to remain off this list for 14 consecutive days. The CDPH monitoring list criteria is determined by elevated levels in the areas of disease transmission, increasing hospitalization, and limited hospital capacity specific to each county. Santa Cruz County has met the criteria to be on the state monitoring list as of July 20, 2020. **Therefore, school districts, charter schools, and private schools are now required to provide distance learning instructional services only.** Schools may reopen for in-person instruction once Santa Cruz County has not been on the county monitoring list within the prior 14 days. Santa Cruz County schools will reopen when local public health data demonstrates that it is safe to do so, with reduced transmission levels and the availability of testing and contact tracing for the school community. Based on the trajectory of the pandemic in our county, it is unlikely schools will be able to re-open for in-person instruction prior to January 2021.

REOPENING SCENARIOS--Restriction Levels or Phases

WHEN WE ARE ABLE TO DO SO, Happy Valley is planning to reopen with new practices in place to

minimize health risks to the fullest extent possible. Happy Valley will open at 50% which is medium risk, however, because of our small size, it looks more like High Restrictions. This is a positive aspect of having a small school district.

SHELTER IN PLACE--Campus Closed

Access to campus is limited to essential workers only.

All instruction takes place via distance learning.

DISTANCE LEARNING OR PHASE 1

ALL STUDENTS WILL DISTANCE LEARN AT HOME. TEACHERS WILL PROVIDE INSTRUCTION EQUAL TO:

180 MINUTES PER DAY FOR KINDERGARTEN

230 MINUTES PER DAY FOR GRADES 1-3

240 MINUTES PER DAY FOR GRADES 4-6

ATTENDANCE WILL BE TAKEN EACH DAY AND GUIDELINES WILL BE PROVIDED FOR PARTICIPATION

HIGH/MEDIUM RISK OR PHASE 2

Stable cohort/classes of no more than 50% normal capacity.

Students and staff maintain 6 feet physical distancing

Daily student and staff temperature checks before school entry and before the student leaves the car.

Face covering required for all staff and students.

No large group gatherings allowed.

Protocols and signage to increase healthy practices (e.g. handwashing, masks)

Cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting protocols in all spaces.

HEALTH AND SAFETY—when in Phase 2

Mask on before arriving on campus.

Maintain 6ft. Physical distancing at all times.

Daily temperatures and health screening before getting out of the car. Any sign of illness, the student and parent will be asked to leave campus and not get out of the car.

Staggered arrivals and dismissal times to minimize crowding or contact.

All students and staff will wash or sanitize their hands upon entering school and each classroom. Hand sanitizer, gloves and extra masks will be available in each classroom.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS—when in Phase 2

Daily symptom check with your child prior to arrival at school. If a child has any of these symptoms, please keep them at home:

Cough, elevated temperature, chills, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea.

Campus access is limited to drop off and pick up. Parents may not get out of car or congregate at school during arrival and dismissal

Meetings involving a large group of people will be conducted via ZOOM

There will be no outside visitors or groups.

EMPLOYEES—when in Distance Learning or Phase 2

All staff will complete an online daily health screening before reporting to work.

All staff will complete a health and temperature check upon arrival.

All employees must wash or sanitize hands as they enter campus.

Masks or face coverings must be worn while on campus at all times.

MOVEMENT ON CAMPUS—when in Phase 2

Passage in hallways and on stairs will be in one direction or will be in a manner that will discourage crowding or stopping.

Staggered breaks, arrival and departure times to uphold physical distancing requirements.

RESTROOM USE—when in Phase 2

Students will only be allowed to go to the bathroom with an aide one at a time. If there is a need for more than one student to enter the bathroom, every other stall will be used to maximize social distancing. When the child is done with the restroom, the aide, office staff or teacher will clean the surfaces touched by the student.

INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM—when in Phase 2

On Monday, June 23rd, the California State Legislature passed a number of bills outlining the specific instructional requirements for districts for the 2020-2021 school year. Below is a summarization of key components of this legislation, related to Happy Valley School.

Schools are required to provide 180 days of instruction.

Students must have face to face contact with their teachers each day. It can be in the form of classroom instruction or via ZOOM.

A minimum of 180 minutes per day for Kindergarten

A minimum of 230 minutes per day for 1st -3rd

A minimum of 240 minutes per day for 4th - 6th

In Phase 2, Happy Valley will have a minimum day for Cohorts on Monday through Thursday with a ZOOM meeting with their classroom teacher in the afternoon if they are distance learning for the day. Fridays will be all distance learning for all students.

Attendance will be taken each day for both Cohorts and attendance is mandatory, not optional.

Potential Class sizes per cohort are as follows: AS OF 8/10/20

Kindergarten—6/7

1st grade—7/8

2nd grade—8/9

3rd grade--8/8

4-5 grade—11/12

5-6 grade--12/12

POTENTIAL SCHOOL SCHEDULE--HIGH/MEDIUM RESTRICTIONS—in Phase 2

Monday/Wednesday	Tuesday/Thursday	Friday
Cohort A K-6 at School, Cohort B Distance Learn with ZOOM meeting with teacher in afternoon.	Cohort B K-6 at School Cohort A distance learn with ZOOM meeting with teacher in afternoon.	All Students Distance Learning
Staggered start and end time	Stagger start and end time	No students on campus

LOW RISK/LOW RESTRICTIONS OR PHASE 3

No restrictions on student groups/class size

Restriction on large group gatherings may remain.

Protocols and signage to increase healthy practices (e.g. handwashing, masks)

Cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting protocols in all spaces.

Happy Valley will continue to work with the County Office of Education and the Santa Cruz Public Health Officer to identify and clarify public health restrictions. As guidelines become more specific, we will adjust as necessary.

HEALTH PROTOCOLS

If a staff member becomes ill at work, they will immediately contact the office and then leave campus. If symptoms indicate COVID 19, the employee will go for a health assessment. If students become ill, they will be taken to an isolation room (the library) with a staff member and the parent will be called to pick up. A note of the student's movements will be documented that day in case the student is positive for COVID 19. IF a student or staff member tested positive for COVID 19, the school will immediately revert to distance learning.

CONCLUSION

These are very trying and unsure times. Please rest assured that the board, administration and staff are working diligently to bring the best experience possible to your children while keeping them safe and healthy.

Take good care and thank you for your support,

Michelle McKinny

Superintendent, Happy Valley School District

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