



FAQs -- 2020-2021 Kettering Schools Reopening Plan

[August 17 -- First Day of School Grades 1-10](#)

[August 18 -- First Day of School Grades 11 & 12](#)

[August 24 -- First Day of School for K and Pre-K](#)

How will gifted learning work? Will it be incorporated into online curriculum?

Elementary Level -- KCS teachers have been working with the gifted department this summer to allow for gifted, online services. Students in the gifted education program will continue to receive service in their area of identification, whether the parent/guardian chooses the in-person, in-school option or the online option for the student.

Middle School Level – KCS’s gifted education coordinator, Dawn Cauldwell, will be tied to our gifted middle school students who choose the online educational option, and will be keeping in regular contact with these students to assist them and their families with any extension services they may need.

High School Level – The services will be student-specific, depending on the coursework into which students enroll.

Special Education Services

Students who have an IEP or a 504 Plan and whose parents/guardians enroll them in the online learning option will be contacted by a member of our Special Education Services team to develop a plan that supports both core and specially designed instruction. The plan will be developed based on each students’ Individualized Education Plan or Section 504 Plan.

For questions regarding special education services for your student, please contact your child’s special education coordinator:

Mary Conlon -- mary.conlon@ketteringschools.org -- Fairmont High School

Dawn Potter -- dawn.potter@ketteringschools.org -- Greenmont, Indian Riffle & Oakview preschools

Erin Conen -- erin.conen@ketteringschools.org -- John F. Kennedy, Southdale & Beavertown elementary schools

Laura Finn -- laura.finn@ketteringschools.org -- Kettering and Van Buren middle schools
Amy Snyder -- amy.snyder@ketteringschools.org -- Greenmont, J.E. Prass & Orchard Park elementary schools

Jody Henderson -- jody.henderson@ketteringschools.org -- Indian Riffle & Oakview elementary schools

Is the choice we are making between Plan 1 and Plan 2 for the whole year or will we be able to switch between the two options?

The decisions families are making between Option 1 (in-school) or Option 2 (online) will be for at least a semester at a time. If families choose the online option for the first semester, they will have the opportunity to move to the in-school option for second semester, and vice-versa. This semester commitment will allow students to have a consistency in curriculum and allow the district to staff appropriately to meet student needs.

If I send my child to school and it is overwhelming for her because of everything going on, can she switch to homeschool?

Home Schooling is different from choosing the district's remote, online option. Families have the option to do homeschooling anytime they wish. There are guidelines from the Ohio Department of Education for home schooling linked [here](#).

If things get worse from a COVID standpoint, can I switch my child to online learning mid-semester?

Families are making decisions for the full semester. If the in-school option is selected for the first semester, students can move to the online option for the second semester, if they choose. That said, the school district is and will continue to closely monitor recommendations from the Ohio Department of Health and Dayton Montgomery County Public Health to adjust safe levels of in-person instruction, if necessary.

Will you be providing meals for students who do online learning, similar to what you did last school year?

Yes, we are working out the details of a plan to provide grab-and-go meals to students whose families choose the online educational option for them.

How are you going to do breakfast and lunch so that students and staff are social distancing? Will you still serve hot meals, or will it all be grab-and-go like last year?

At the elementary schools, breakfast will be grab-and-go, and students will eat in their classrooms. Our Food & Nutrition Services Department is still working out the details for providing breakfast to middle and high school students. We are planning right now to provide hot meal options for lunch at all grade levels. Cafeterias will be kept at 50-percent capacity for social distancing. Depending on the building, classrooms and other sections of the buildings -- such as gyms and library areas -- will also be utilized to assure social distancing at lunch time.

How will you social distance for recess?

We are working together to implement playground sanitizing procedures and social distancing safety procedures for students. The number of students at recess at one time will be reduced

and kept in cohort (grade-level) groups. Students will use hand sanitizer before and after recess.

Will students go to gym class? If so, will they dress for gym.

Students will attend gym class; however, they will not be changing into gym clothes for gym classes. Students are encouraged to dress appropriately on their respective gym days.

Will children still have art and music classes?

Yes. Students will have art and music classes in their art and music classrooms.

Is it possible to have temperatures checked (touchless) before the kid goes into the classroom?

It will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian to do temperature checks of their child(ren) each day before they come to school.

I have an open enrollment request for my youngest child. Will you still be approving open enrollment requests?

Yes, we will be reviewing intra-district open enrollment requests as we always have and will make decisions as to whether we can approve individual requests, based on enrollment numbers and class sizes at each building. We anticipate being able to begin notifying parents/guardians regarding intra-district open enrollment requests within the next week-and-a-half.

Will laptops be issued to students in upper grades doing online learning, or will they use chromebooks?

Students will use their Chromebooks that were distributed last school year when we moved to E-learning.

How will chromebooks be distributed to new students?

Students who are attending in-building learning will receive their Chromebook in their building the first week of school. Students who are participating in online learning will pick up their Chromebooks the week before school starts from a centralized location (most likely at Fairmont High School). More information will be sent to the parents/guardians of new incoming students closer to the start of school.

Will we still be able to get transportation to our babysitter's house?

No, we will only have the capability to transport to and from the student's home.

How will transportation work? What if a student shows up at the bus stop without a mask?

Our bus drivers will have extra masks to give to students who forget to bring their masks with them, and will also instruct the student to begin bringing his/her mask with them to wear when riding the school bus.

What will happen if kids or teachers test positive? What protocols will there be for incidents of exposure and positive Covid tests? How will parents be notified?

In each case of possible COVID exposure, the Kettering City School District will follow Public Health Dayton Montgomery County (PHDMC) guidelines and mandates. These guidelines and mandates are outlined below:

Staff should stay at home when they register a fever of 100°F or higher or have any of the symptoms related to COVID-19.

Staff should also stay home if any member of their household is registering a fever of 100°F or higher or have any of the symptoms related to COVID-19.

Any staff member that has the following symptoms of COVID-19 should stay home from school and should see their primary care provider to be assessed for COVID-19:

Any of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing

--OR--

Two of the following symptoms: fever (measured or subjective), chills, rigors, myalgia, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, GI Issues(nausea and vomiting or diarrhea)

--OR--

Any of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing, fever (measured or subjective), chills, rigors, myalgia, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, GI Issues(nausea and vomiting or diarrhea) AND an epidemiological link to a case of COVID-19

Returning to School After Illness

If a staff member is diagnosed as having COVID-19, they must meet the following criteria to return to school:

Three days with no fever (without using fever reducing medication) AND

Other symptoms improved AND

10 days since symptoms first appeared

Staff members that only have a fever and no other symptoms and have not had any contact with an individual that has COVID-19 may return to school after they are fever-free for 24 hours without using any fever-reducing medications.

When should students come to school or stay home based on symptoms?

Students should stay at home when they register a fever of 100°F or higher or any of the symptoms related to COVID-19. Students should also stay home if any member of their household is registering a fever of 100° F or higher or any of the symptoms related to COVID-19.

Any student that has the following symptoms of COVID-19 should stay home from school and should see their primary care provider to be assessed for COVID-19:

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Returning to School After Illness

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10 days since symptoms first appeared

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Other symptoms improved AND

Students that only have a fever and no other symptoms and have not had any contact with an individual that has COVID-19 may return to school after they are fever-free for 24 hours without using any fever-reducing medications.

Any other illnesses should be handled in the routine manner according to district policies. To return to school the child must be transported to school by the parent and must be checked by the school nurse.

What if a student or staff member becomes ill while at school?

We have highly qualified school nurses at each of our buildings who will be actively involved in assessing students and staff who exhibit any of the symptoms of COVID-19 while at school and will assist with making certain students and staff exhibiting any COVID-19 symptoms are immediately quarantined.

Any student who develops COVID-19 symptoms while at school will be quarantined in an area other than the clinic until a parent or guardian arrives to pick them up from school. If student is in grades PreK-2 and is not wearing a mask, a mask will be placed on the student unless other health issues prevent it.

Any staff member who develops COVID-19 symptoms while at school will be sent home immediately. Steps will be taken to limit exposure to others.*

**All exposed areas will be immediately cleaned and disinfected. Students may need to leave their classroom while cleaning occurs.*

What will the online option look like? Will it be similar to what we did last school year?

The Kettering City School District selected a group of exemplary elementary level e-learning

teachers who have been working on content and exemplar Google classrooms this summer. This e-learning group of teachers will share their work with all of our staff before school starts so that we can provide an effective experience to our students who will be going with the online option this school year.

The online option for secondary students will be very self-directed. There will be KCS staff members identified to support students as they progress through the coursework and these teachers will communicate regularly with parents regarding their students' progress. Staff will also be available for student/family questions.

If the in-school option has to go online, will it be Google classrooms for elementary and APEX for middle and high school?

Families who choose the online learning option will remain in their virtual coursework, even if the school district is required to close and move to e-learning for a period of time. Families that have chosen the in-school option will shift to Google Classroom with their respective Kettering teachers, if we have to close school and move to an e-learning approach.

Will virtual students receive physical workbooks to aid in learning?

Elementary level students will have access to some physical materials (for example, workbooks etc.) Building principals will be communicating with their parents on their plans to distribute the supporting materials before the first day of school.

APEX, which will be used by middle and high school students who choose the online option, has built-in study guides designed to assist students through coursework.

If we choose online learning what does it mean that students will have limited access to special courses? Does the learning/access to the courses differ between in-person and online learning?

There is a list of courses, specific to the middle school curriculum and specific to the high school curriculum that students/parents can use to build the students' schedules. While APEX is a robust online educational program, it cannot provide access to all of the course offerings available to students who will be doing in-building learning.

What are the options for IB Diploma students? IB classes? AP classes? for students who choose the online option?

Our IB Coordinator, Darren McGarvey, will be reaching out to IB Diploma students/families to share the options he is developing to allow our IB Diploma candidates to continue their diploma program this year. APEX does have a number of AP course offerings that students/families can select when building their online schedules.

Will children who are doing the in-person option be able to stream their class or do remote learning if they are required to stay at home due to a minor illness such as a cold, cough, the sniffles, or low-grade temperature?

If a child misses school due to minor illnesses, the absence would be treated much as it has been in the past and the teacher will work with the student when he/she returns to complete work that was missed. If a student has to stay home due to a temperature or signs of COVID-19 symptoms, the student will be kept on his/her class list and his/her teachers will interact with the

student via Google classroom to keep the student as engaged and caught up on assignments as possible.

Can my child participate in sports and marching band if they do the online option?

Yes

My child is high-risk. If I un-enroll him and choose public online school, can I re-enroll back in Kettering once my child gets a vaccine for COVID?

Yes, the student can re-enroll at the semester break.

Can one of my children do the online option and the other do the in-school option?

Yes

How many students will be in each classroom? Will there be a limit? Can you provide a picture of what classrooms will look like?

There are different sizes and configurations to classrooms across the district. Because of this reality, there is no way to accurately answer this question. When we get more accurate numbers as to how many students are choosing the online versus the in-building option, we will be able to drill down into classroom layouts.

The goal is for 6 feet of distance between students. Realistically, this will not be able to be accomplished in every classroom, but we are making every effort to socially distance students in classrooms, lunch rooms, libraries, etc., as much as possible.

How will the staff be expected to/be able to keep track of each student on whether they are maintaining safety protocols? Will there be additional staff to maintain safety protocols?

Unfortunately, funding to the Kettering City Schools was drastically cut in April as a result of budget cuts at the state level, and the state is projecting additional funding cuts during the coming school year. There just simply is no funding available to hire additional staff to maintain safety protocols. That said, we are confident in the ability of our staff across the district to partner in assuring our buildings are safe as we return to in-person learning. We are also depending on our parents/guardians to partner with us in reinforcing with your children the importance of following the safety protocols we are putting in place, as well as the safety protocols Public Health Dayton Montgomery County is recommending.

Lots of elementary classrooms have 4-5 kids sitting at tables. How will this work with social distancing? Will tables be replaced with individual desks?

We are looking at a combination of acrylic table dividers and using additional classroom furniture to socially distance students as much as possible when they are in classrooms.

What are the schools doing to make it safe to return to school?

Hand sanitizing stations have been placed at numerous locations in all of our schools. Every classroom will have a supply of hand sanitizer and disinfecting supplies for desktops, doorknobs, and other high-touch areas. We are in the process of installing water bottle dispensers in our schools and will be closing all of the old drinking fountains in all schools. We

will also be constantly reminding students of the importance of proper handwashing and the use of hand sanitizer and ask that our parents/guardians reinforce this with your children, as well.

Will there be acrylic barriers to protect in certain areas? What areas?

Yes, these barriers are going to be installed in all office areas.

Will 8th graders who take ELA, math and foreign language classes at Fairmont High School still be transported there for these classes?

Yes, we are still planning on transporting students to the high school for these classes.

Students who choose to do online learning will be doing online classes. There are classes available through APEX that are high school-level classes that students/parents can choose to include in the student's schedule. For example, if an 8th-grade student was scheduled to take geometry at Fairmont High School, they can sign up to take the geometry course through APEX.

What will drop-off and pick-up look like?

In general, drop-off and pick-up will be very similar to what parents/guardians have been used to in year's past. Each school is finalizing its plan for drop-off and pick-up that takes into account safety protocols and social distancing guidelines. Drop-off and pick-up times may be staggered or vary a bit and students may be assigned to a particular door to enter and exit their building depending on the size of the school, but in general, drop-off and pick-up will be very similar.

What time will students be allowed in the building? How will you handle social distancing if they congregate outside the building before it opens? Will students need to go directly to their classrooms?

Fairmont High School administration is working through what arrival and dismissal will look like for students. Buses begin arriving at the high school as early as 7 a.m., so the principals are working on a plan to direct students to various locations on the campus in order to assure social distancing, as much as possible.

Doors will be open to students at Kettering and Van Buren middle schools beginning at 8:25 a.m., students will go directly to advisories when they arrive at school. Breakfast will likely be grab-and-go-style for middle school students.

Elementary students will be able to get into the building, beginning at 7:50 a.m. and will report directly to classrooms.

What if my family believes in not wearing face masks regardless of what the entire country is doing?

Because the district now has a Board Policy regarding face coverings in place that mandates masks for anyone entering our school buildings, your option for your children will be to do the online learning, unless your child falls under one of the exceptions for wearing a face covering, as outlined in the policy.

Will there still be extra-curricular activities?

Yes. Extracurricular activities will follow school district guidelines and policy, including the need

to social distance and the mandate to wear masks. We will follow guidelines from state-governing agencies, such as OHSAA, as well as Public Health Dayton Montgomery County to ensure our students participating in extracurricular activities are as safe as possible.

How are after-school activities going to be monitored for safety?

Official clubs, sports and activities have coaches and advisors. These adults will be responsible for monitoring student safety protocols while students are participating in an official extracurricular activity.

Are there going to be open houses and orientations for students before school starts?

Yes. Our elementary buildings are planning to hold virtual open houses, the middle schools are planning virtual orientations for incoming 6th graders, and Fairmont High School will hold a virtual “Fairmont 101” for incoming freshmen. Details of these activities will be communicated to students/families by their building principals.