

August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Good afternoon,

This past March 15<sup>th</sup>, our school district announced that in-person schooling would be indefinitely suspended. For the final weeks of the school year, Cedaredge Elementary School worked to partner with students and families to provide learning opportunities for our students. There were many successes and lessons learned, but being away from our students who we love so much, proved to be the most difficult challenge for our staff. Today, I'm excited to be writing you all to layout our plan for welcoming students back into CES this next week, beginning on Wednesday, August 19<sup>th</sup>.

Please see the help document on page two that aims to breakdown the biggest changes you and your child can expect as we prepare to reopen our school to students. Here is a quick rundown:

- Please start each day by checking in with your child, using the attached screener.
- Our campus will be closed until 7:30 a.m. each morning, with the doors opening and temperature checks beginning at that time. Please do not bring your children before 7:30 a.m. After a child has his/her temperature checked, they will go to the gym, cafeteria or classroom, depending on the time.
- Masks are optional, but strongly encouraged, for all of our students at Cedaredge Elementary School. All teachers and staff will be wearing masks in and out of the building, in common areas and hallways and whenever working closely with a child. Masks will be taken off for instruction.
- Any student with a temperature of 100° F or greater will be sent home or not allowed to stay at school. At that time, we will work with the County Health Department to come up with the best plan for re-integrating that student back into CES, when they are healthy and symptom-free.
- We are restricting the use of our parking lot to essential staff only, so we ask that, if your child is not riding the bus, you use the drop-off area located on the west side of our field to drop your child off.
- Students will not be able to share toys and playground equipment brought from home – please keep all such items at home.
- All water fountains will be disabled so families are encouraged to send reusable bottles of water with students, and students must return home with them each day. If possible, please send cold lunch in paper bags, so they can simply be discarded after your child is finished.
- Parents will not be allowed to enter the building or our playground with their child before school or after 3:00 p.m. each day. During the day, to pick up a child or to perhaps drop off a forgotten item, parents must call our office to be buzzed in, as all our doors will be locked. Any parents entering our building must wear a mask at all times and may not go past our office into our hallways, unless they are the class or grade level volunteer (and, if so, their temperature must be checked before entering).
- The campus will then be closed again at 3:30 p.m. each day.

In the five years that I've been the principal of CES, I've never once wished to make any of our families feel unwelcome, and I do not intend to start now – CES will continue to be great BECAUSE of our partnerships with families. However, we believe our most essential role and purpose is to educate all the children who come through our doors each day. And to give our students and our school the best chance of staying open and providing critical, rich learning opportunities for all students, we must institute these restrictions for the time being. And our hope is that our message to students mirrors your message to your children: that these measures are intended to keep everyone safe so we can all be back at school together. Our teachers are also preparing resources in case we must go back to a distance learning model, but our intention is to work hard to keep each other healthy and safe, so we can continue our in-person learning throughout the school year.

As always, we will be available to answer questions, help in any way we can and, of course, love, serve and teach your children each and every day. Also, we have been sending out communication regularly via email. If you are not receiving those emails, please let us know so we can update your information.

Sincerely,

Daniel P. Renfrow  
Principal  
Cedaredge Elementary School

# Cedaredge Elementary Restart Plan

## A Quick Look at How We're Working to Keep Our Students Safe & Healthy

### Before School

- Please check your child's temperature each day before attempting to send to school.
- **Our campus will be closed prior to 7:30 a.m.** to ensure that no student has entered the campus prior to getting his or her temperature checked. **Any students with a temperature of 100° or greater will be sent home or not allowed to stay at school.**
- For students riding the bus: they will have their temperature checked before getting on the bus. When they arrive at CES, they will enter the north doors like they always have. They will be directed to go to the cafeteria if they need to eat breakfast or, if they do not need to eat, to the gym or their classroom, depending on the time.
- For students who are being dropped off or walking to our campus: **At or after 7:30 a.m., please use our drop-off area located on the west side of our field. We are asking that families do not use our parking lot this year.** Students will get their temperature checked prior to exiting the vehicle. If a student has a temperature, they may not be dropped off at the school. If they do not have a temperature, they will walk across our field and also enter in our north doors. Any students walking onto our campus at any other location must find an adult to check their temperature before entering the building.
- We are building in more movement and recess time, when appropriate, to make up for this lost playtime in the morning. We have been asked to limit mixing of cohorts as much as possible and we feel that asking students to go straight into the building will help us accomplish that.
- We are using these "soft starts" each day to build in more community time with the teacher and classmates.
- **As noted elsewhere, parents will not be allowed to enter the building or our playground with their child before school.**

### Lunch/Recesses

- We are staggering our lunches a bit differently in order to ensure that we have fewer children in the lunchroom and that we have adequate time to clean between groups.
- All students will sit in their classroom cohort together and sitting on the same side of the table (in order to limit the face-to-face contact in such close quarters).
- We are encouraging families to pack lunches in paper bags that can be thrown away instead of in lunch boxes that your child will continue to be responsible for.
- **Students cannot share toys or equipment on our playground this year; so CES is prohibiting children from bringing toys/sports equipment from home.** CES will be supplying playground equipment that will be cleaned between uses.
- We continue to prioritize playtime for our children. We are just working to ensure that students play with grade-level classmates/cohorts instead of students across grades.

### Cleaning/Safety

- Our staff has completed a training and were given time to reorganize their classrooms to build in more social distancing. They also removed any items that we are not able to clean each day. All furniture outside our office and throughout our hallways has also been removed to limit the possibility of contact spreading.
- Teachers and all staff members will have their temperature checked as they arrive each day. **All adults will wear masks entering and exiting the building, throughout our hallways and in any other common areas.** Once teachers are in their classrooms, they have the option of removing their masks to conduct instruction. If they must work closely with a child, they will put their mask back on. Masks are optional for all students at CES.
- In addition to the common practice of washing hands thoroughly after using the restroom, students and staff will wash and sanitize their hands regularly throughout the day: entering the classroom in the morning, before any transition to another classroom (for instance, to library), before and after recess and before lunch.
- Our school district is using a Peroxide solution that is safe. In our K-3 grades, it will be applied to desks, chairs and tables once during the day and once in the evening by our custodians. For our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders, it will be applied after every rotation (for instance, before they leave math to go to science). That way, students will arrive at a clean, sanitized desk. When appropriate, students may be asked to help wiping desks, tables and chairs, as we work together in the care and responsibility of keeping each other safe and healthy.
- Special precautions are also being taken in our library, PE and music to ensure that items that are being touched are being cleaned or not used again by other children until they are.

### After School / Dismissal

- **No families will be allowed into the front office after 3:00 p.m. each day. We ask that if you need us to deliver a message to your child, that you contact us prior to 3:00 p.m. each day.**
- Beginning at 3:13 p.m., we will stagger our dismissal, with all Kinder, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and 4<sup>th</sup> grade children riding a first load bus being led to the bus area by one of our adults – they will get on the buses. At 3:15 p.m., all 1<sup>st</sup> grade, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will join them.
- At 3:17 p.m., second load bus students in K, 2 and 4, will be escorted to the bus area, while at 3:19 p.m., all 1, 3, and 5 students will be escorted next.
- At 3:20 p.m., all students who are walking or being picked up, will be walked out the west doors. At that point, walkers will be able to walk the direction of their home or to where they will be met by a family member off campus to continue home – we will emphasize using crosswalks for safety. Meanwhile, all students being picked up will be walked over to our pickup area, where they will be separated by cohort as they wait.
- **At 3:30 p.m. our campus is once again closed.**