

# Oak Park

UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



## Back to School Resource Guide

2021-2022

Updated August 6, 2021



# MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Families,

Oak Park USD is looking forward to welcoming our students to a full, traditional, five-day in-person instructional program on August 9, 2021. While things might not be 100% back to normal, many activities and programs that students and families have missed will return this school year.

To help answer your questions and outline the safety protocols in place, we offer this Back-to-School Resource Guide for families. We have a lot to be excited about and prepare for as the first day of school approaches. To ensure a safe start to the school year, layered prevention strategies will be in place in all schools, including mandatory mask wearing for staff and students while indoors. Read more about why these measures are important and how we will practice safety this fall.

In this guide, you will find information on the following:

- Return to Full In-Person Learning
- COVID-19 Safety Protocols
- Extracurricular Activities
- School Meals, Recess/Nutrition, and Lunch
- Access to Technology
- Academic and Social-Emotional Support
- Independent Study Option
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Daily Morning Routine Checklist

We know that return to full in-person school after more than a year of distance/hybrid learning will require increased social-emotional and academic supports for our students. This year at all levels, you will see a great focus on social-emotional supports for students, staff, and parents. The District has allocated funds to support outdoor and hands-on learning, both of which contribute to academic success, social-emotional wellness, and school connectedness.

I sincerely appreciate your support as we work towards reopening our schools, and our teachers and staff get settled into the mode of a return to full, in-person instruction. I am confident that our schools will be as safe as possible for everyone by working together and following all health and safety protocols.

I can assure you that OPUSD will continue to monitor local conditions diligently and work closely with state and county health officials to respond quickly if circumstances change. In addition, we will share updates regularly to ensure families are equipped with the most current information.

On behalf of the Board of Education and my staff, we look forward to welcoming you back to campus on August 9th! #OPopeningday

Thank you,

Dr. Jeff Davis  
Superintendent  
#TeamOPUSD



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# RETURN TO FULL IN-PERSON LEARNING

OPUSD will return to full in-person learning for the 2021-22 school year, which begins **Monday, August 9**, and is set to include five days a week of traditional school days. We remain committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students! We will utilize stringent cleaning and disinfection procedures, promote frequent hand washing, encourage staff and students who are ill to stay home, enforce strict indoor mask requirements for students and staff, and other proven COVID-19 prevention strategies. OPUSD will continue to follow the latest health and safety guidance, which will largely depend on the recommendations of the county and state health and safety experts. **As a reminder, CDPH and VCPH dictate the health requirements that schools must follow.** The health and safety protocols referenced in this document are based on updated guidance released by CDPH on July 28, 2021 **and VCPH guidance released on August 6, 2021.** The updated guidance for masking and physical distancing from VCPH states:

- COVID is primarily transmitted by aerosols (airborne transmission) and less frequently by droplets.
- Physical distancing is generally used to reduce only droplet transmission.
- Masks are one of the most effective measures for source control for both aerosols and droplets.

To ensure a successful return to in-person learning, the OPUSD Board of Education plans to establish the following goal as the top priority for the 2021-2022 school year:

## **Return to a full-time, in-person instructional model.**

- Promote and adhere to state and county health guidelines to ensure a safe environment for all students, teachers, staff, and families.
- Provide multi-tiered systems of support to all students, especially students not performing at grade level, based on student assessment data gathered at the beginning of the school year and at multiple points during the school year.
- Develop written plans with site leaders and counseling staff using evidence-based strategies to support social-emotional well-being of students as they transition back to on-campus learning.
- Ensure availability of quality resources, technology support, and professional development to staff.
- Provide expanded on-campus learning opportunities for our students beyond school hours.
- Implement the OPIS Virtual program to serve students with pandemic-related health needs.
- Continue to be sensitive to and supportive of the challenges of teaching and learning during the pandemic.
- Continue evaluating contingency plans to ensure continuity of learning during unexpected classroom or school closures.

**In-Person Learning** - All students attending school at BES, OHES, ROES, MCMS, OPHS, and OVHS will participate in a full day of in-person learning that resembles a regular school day. [Bell schedules](#) at all above-listed schools will return to their normal pre-covid times. OPNS students will also return to a regular in-person schedule and will follow the safety protocols outlined in this document.

**Virtual Learning** - Students whose health would be put at risk by in-person instruction, as determined by their parent or guardian, have the option to attend our Oak Park Independent School (OPIS) Virtual Program. Please submit an [interest form](#) if you wish to discuss this option with OPIS Principal, Mr. Kent Cromwell. Students enrolled in the traditional OPIS program will follow the school's normal pre-covid schedules. Learn more about the OPIS Virtual program on page 15 of this guide.

**Distance Learning** - Distance Learning (DL) that was offered last year will not be available this year. Though DL will not be available this year, the Virtual Independent Study Program is available as an at-home option as stated above. Students placed in quarantine will have the option of short-term home independent study through the school site. Find more details about quarantine procedures on page 6.



# COVID-19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS

## FACE MASKS

Universal masking indoors in K-12 schools is recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics and by the CDC in its Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools (updated July 27, 2021). As the guidance noted: *"CDC recommends universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status. Children should return to full-time in-person learning in the fall with layered prevention strategies in place."* CDPH guidance states that *"Universal masking prevents outbreaks and permits modified quarantine under certain conditions in K-12 settings, supporting more instructional time and minimizing missed school days for students. Additionally, universal masking indoors is critical to enabling all schools to offer and provide full in-person instruction to all students without minimum physical distancing requirements."*



CDPH is following the same guidelines and requires districts to follow its published safety measures for DK-12 schools:

- **Indoors** - Tightly woven cloth or surgical masks must be worn indoors by all students and staff while on campus.
- **Outdoors** - Masks are optional, but students and staff are welcome to wear a mask if they so choose.
- **Exemptions** - exemptions will only be permitted as listed under [CDPH guidance for use of face coverings](#).

## CHOOSING THE RIGHT MASK

### Cloth Masks

Cloth masks can work well if they are tight-fitting and made of materials that filter out small particles. Good cloth masks have:

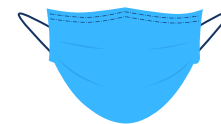
- Two layers of **tightly woven** cotton with a third layer of non-woven fabric. The third layer could be a mask filter insert or a synthetic fabric such as polypropylene.
- Nose wires to reduce gaps from the nose.
- Adjustable ear loops or straps that go around the head to reduce gaps from the face.



### Medical Masks (also called Surgical Masks or Disposable Face Masks)

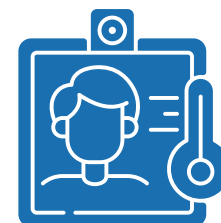
Medical masks include various types of loose-fitting disposable masks. The fit of a medical mask can be improved with a simple modification or by using a mask brace. Look for the following when buying medical masks:

- Masks with three layers of non-woven material.
- An adjustable nose bridge.
- Surgical masks with ties may provide a closer fit than ear loops.



## SYMPTOM SCREENING BEFORE ARRIVAL

Students and staff are required to perform [daily health and screening checks](#) at home before arriving on campus, including ensuring a temperature below **99.5** and no cold, cough, or flu-like symptoms as required by Ventura County Public Health (VCPH). Individuals should stay home if they have had any symptoms related to COVID-19 within the past 10 days, which include flu-like symptoms such as fever, coughing or shortness of breath, chills, muscle or body pain, fatigue, headache, sore throat, nausea, or vomiting, diarrhea, congestion or runny nose, or new loss of taste or smell, or if they are subject to quarantine due to being in close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual.



# COVID-19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS

## CONTACT TRACING AND NOTIFICATION

In the event a student or staff member exhibits COVID-19 symptoms, free testing can be conducted by an OPUSD trained health technician. Communications to potential exposures and contact tracing will be done while maintaining the confidentiality of the individual who is COVID-19 positive. Quarantine and conditions for a student or staff member to return to campus will follow the most current **VCPH** requirements. Please note that the district is required to report COVID-19 cases to VCPH. **Protocols outlined below were updated based on information provided by VCPH on August 6, 2021.**



## ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE

The district will comply with all notifications and quarantine protocols called for by **VCPH** if they differ from the **CDPH** guidance:

**Quarantine protocols for vaccinated staff and students:** Consistent with County Health orders, fully vaccinated students and staff who come into close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual will not be required to quarantine at home but instead will be able to remain in in-person instruction with biweekly testing.



**Modified quarantine protocols for unvaccinated staff and students:**

Quarantine protocols will be followed for unvaccinated staff and students for exposures when both parties were wearing a mask, as required in K-12 indoor settings. A person considered to be a close contact is based on CDC's definition of **close contact**.

- **When the positive case AND the close contact were wearing face coverings in an indoor or outdoor setting:**

- a. If a close contact exposure (more than 15 minutes over a 24-hour period within 0-6 feet indoors) occurs with an unvaccinated student and both the positive case and the contact were wearing face coverings in an indoor setting, the close contact may continue to attend in-person instruction if they:

- i. Are asymptomatic;
- ii. Continue to wear a face covering as required; AND
- iii. Undergo at least twice weekly testing during the 10-day quarantine (negative COVID-19 test results must be provided to school health personnel, OPUSD will have testing availability at school campuses.)



This modified quarantine is only for attending in-person classroom sessions. Students who are under this modified quarantine cannot attend any extracurricular activities (e.g., school related sports, conditioning, band practice).

- **When the positive case was not wearing a face covering during the indoor or outdoor exposure**

- a. 10-day quarantine: If the close contact, who at the time of COVID-19 exposure did not have a face covering, will need to quarantine for 10 days from the last date of exposure. The presence of a negative COVID-19 test does not shorten the 10-day quarantine.



Continue to self monitor and if any symptoms develop in the next 14 days from the last exposure, the exposed person must immediately isolate, get tested, and contact their healthcare provider with any questions regarding their care.

**VCPH will not be aligning with the 7-day quarantine with test after Day 5 option as stated in the CDPH guidance.**



# COVID-19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS

## STUDENTS FEELING UNWELL

Students who exhibit any of the following symptoms: fever greater than 99.5, coughing or shortness of breath, chills, muscle or body pain, fatigue, headache, sore throat, nausea, or vomiting, diarrhea, congestion or runny nose, or new loss of taste or smell will be taken immediately to the health office and parents will be notified and requested to pick up their child. Depending upon the severity of symptoms a COVID-19 test and/or quarantine may be required. The class may be required to leave the classroom so it can be sanitized. Students who are exposed or who are in quarantine will be placed on short-term independent study through the school site.



Parents should keep the child at home if the student was sent home due to any COVID-19 symptoms. Students and staff members with COVID-19 symptoms should not return for in-person instruction until they have met all three criteria listed below:



1. They provide a negative COVID test or a health care provider has provided documentation that the symptoms are due to something else or at least 10 days have passed since the onset of their symptoms; and
2. At least 24 hours have passed since the resolution of a fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; and
3. Other symptoms have improved.

## COVID-19 TESTING OFFERED BY OPUSD

CDPH outlined in the [K-12 School Guidance FAQs released on July 29, 2021](#) that fully vaccinated students are not recommended to participate in screening testing at school. OPUSD recommends students and staff who are unvaccinated get routinely tested.

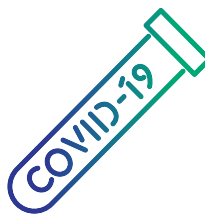


**Optional COVID testing available for students and staff:** OPUSD will have Covid tests (PCR) available at one district location each day. Students or staff identified as symptomatic will be asked to take their tests at the designated times. Testing will be available [HERE](#).

## COVID-19 VACCINE

Per CDC and CDPH, COVID 19 vaccines are effective. They decrease the chances of getting and spreading the virus that causes COVID-19. COVID-19 vaccines help keep students and staff from getting seriously ill even if they do get COVID-19. Fully vaccinated students may remain in school and avoid interruptions to in-person education, even if they are exposed to someone with COVID-19, so long as they remain without symptoms. Also, fully vaccinated students are not recommended to participate in screening testing at school.

All OPUSD employees had the opportunity to receive the COVID-19 vaccine and have been encouraged to be vaccinated. Vaccinations are currently available for students aged 12 and up, and parents are encouraged to consult with their health providers in considering vaccinations for their children. Vaccination sites are available county-wide, and OPUSD will be working with Ventura County Public Health to periodically provide “pop-up” vaccination clinics in Oak Park.

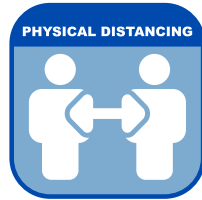


As noted by the CDC, COVID-19 prevention strategies in DK-12 schools are designed to protect people who are not fully vaccinated. Many students will not be fully vaccinated by the start of the school year. Due to the potential for increased spread from highly transmissible circulating variants and that face masks remain one of the most effective and simplest safety mitigation layers, adults including those who are fully vaccinated, in DK-12 school settings are required to wear a mask when sharing indoor spaces with students. Universal indoor masking of staff, regardless of vaccination status, is also recommended by the CDC.

# COVID-19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS

## PHYSICAL DISTANCING

Current CDPH guidance indicates that in-person instruction can safely occur when other mitigation strategies (e.g., masking, hand hygiene, disinfection, ventilation, quarantine protocols for infected individuals) are implemented. Students and staff will not be required to maintain physical distancing indoors or outdoors. Students will be encouraged to eat lunch outdoors at designated locations on campus. Additional spaces outside of the normal lunch areas will be used such as the Multipurpose room at elementary schools, Gym at MCMS, and the Pavilion at OPHS to help with physical distancing while eating. Students and staff are permitted to remove their masks indoors while eating as long as they maintain physical distancing and put on their masks as soon as they have finished eating.



## COVID-19 SAFETY KITS FOR CLASSROOMS

Each classroom has been supplied with a boxed COVID-19 Safety Kit which contains masks, gloves, wipes, and hand sanitizer. The masks in this kit are provided for staff and student use.

Every classroom has also been provided with a spray bottle of Envirocare Disinfectant. This is a leave-in spray and should not be wiped dry until it has been on the surface for a minimum of 10 minutes. If it dries on its own prior to 10 minutes, it has still disinfected appropriately.



Each teacher has also been provided with a free-standing plexiglass shield. This can be used for the teacher's desk or wherever the teacher might work more closely with individual students for assessment, etc.

## SANITIZATION

Custodians at all school sites have been trained in the necessary cleaning and sanitization protocols. Our custodial staff will nightly sanitize all classrooms, offices, and common areas. High-touch areas (doorknobs, faucets, light switches) will be disinfected regularly.



Surfaces that come in contact with food will be regularly washed, rinsed, and sanitized.

CDPH guidance states that given the very low risk of transmission from surfaces and shared objects, there is no need to limit food service approaches to single-use items and packaged meals.

## HAND HYGIENE

- Students and staff should wash their hands frequently throughout the day, including before and after eating; after coughing or sneezing; after classes where they handle shared items, such as outside recreation, art, or shop; and before and after using the restroom.
- Hands should be washed for 20 seconds with soap, rubbing thoroughly after application.
- Handwashing facilities are available at our school sites including freestanding handwashing stations throughout the campus. Students are able to use those as well instead of hand sanitizers.
- Adequate supplies will be provided to support healthy hygiene behaviors, including soap, tissues, no-touch trashcans, face coverings, and hand sanitizers with at least 60 percent ethyl alcohol for staff and children who can safely use hand sanitizer. Ethyl alcohol-based hand sanitizers are provided in every classroom and are safe for student use.





# COVID-19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS

## SHARING OF SUPPLIES

With the updated guidance from CDC and CDPH that there is a very low risk of transmission of COVID-19 from surfaces and shared objects, there is no current restriction on students sharing materials. Students will be able to share materials, supplies, and related instructional equipment and devices.

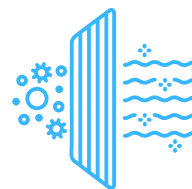
However, it will continue to be best practice for students to sanitize their hands before and after the use of shared supplies. Staff is recommended to clean, wipe, spray materials between uses by groups. All classrooms will be cleaning nightly.



## VENTILATION AND UPGRADED AIR FILTERS

All HVAC systems in classrooms and buildings are equipped with MERV 11 filters as they are the highest-grade compatible with our HVAC systems. These filters are replaced across the District every six months. While we have always invested considerable time and funds in our HVAC systems in the past, we feel more confident than ever that we can welcome students back at full capacity this coming school year due to our upgraded HVAC systems.

Additionally, all classrooms are equipped with Co2 sensors and economizers to monitor and ensure air quality. The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) recommends keeping CO2 levels indoors between 800-1,100 parts per million (ppm) while operating in a COVID environment. OPUSD will be operating at 600 ppm, exceeding the recommended ASHRAE guidelines. Our new Ecobee thermostats send automatic email notifications to our maintenance engineers if any room experiences a rise in CO2 levels above a designated threshold.



## PE, PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT AND LOCKERS

**PE** - Students will participate in PE, including the use of shared gym and other apparatus in accordance with the current public health guidelines. Masks will not be required to be worn when PE is held outdoors. Students will be required to wear masks when participating in indoor PE.

Recent evidence indicates that in-person instruction can occur safely without minimum physical distancing requirements when other mitigation strategies (e.g., masking) are implemented. Students at MCMS and OPHS will require to dress for PE.



**Playground Equipment** can be used by students as the updated guidance from CDC and CDPH states that there is a very low risk of transmission of COVID-19 from surfaces and shared objects.

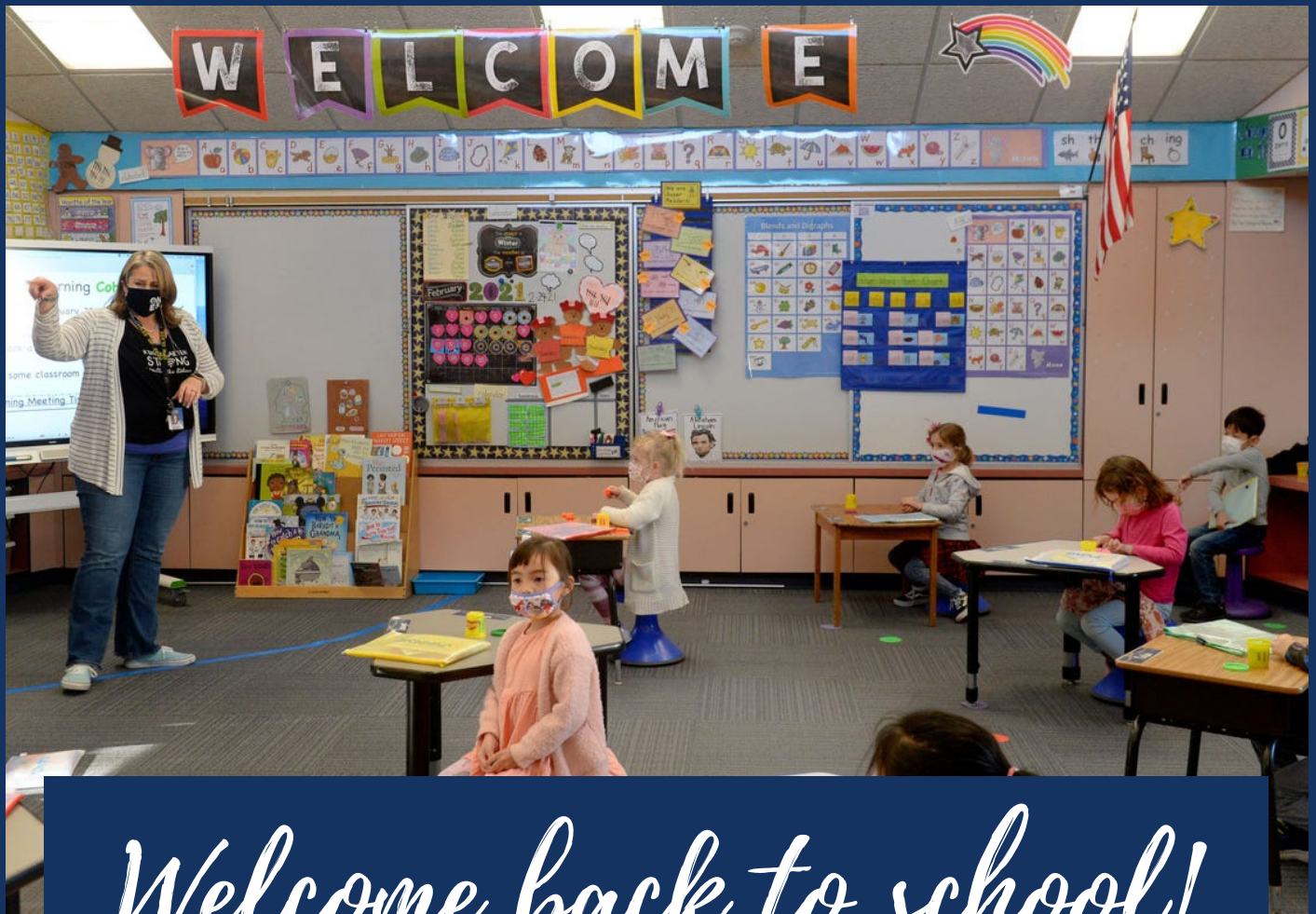
**Lockers** - Students are able to use the book and gym lockers at MCMS and OPHS.

## VISITORS & SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

In the 2021-2022 school year, visitors will continue to be limited inside the school buildings. In-person meetings may occur for parent conferences, PTO meetings, and other essential events (registrations, orientations, back-to-school night, school tours) determined by the principal, in which case face coverings will be required irrespective of vaccination status. Classroom and office volunteers are not permitted at this time.



When visitors are permitted to come inside by the principal, they will need to conduct self-screening [checks](#) at home before arriving on campus, including ensuring a temperature below **99.5** and no cold, cough, or flu-like symptoms.



*Welcome back to school!*





# EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

## EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

**Athletics** - Please visit the OPHS Athletics website for information about Athletic clearances, medical physicals, waivers, insurance, tryouts, and other information. The current guidance for athletics is as follows:

All athletes participating in conditioning, practicing, or competition must observe the following face-covering guidelines, even with heavy exertion as tolerated:

- Masks are required at all times, for all INDOOR sports, by all participants, coaches, assistants, observers, etc., when not actively participating in play. This includes athletes on the bench, sidelines, etc., unless prohibited by activities such as drinking water or receiving care.
- Masks are recommended when athletes are actively participating on the court, field, etc., for all indoor sports, even with heavy exertion as tolerated.
- Masks can be removed at any time for an athlete to catch their breath during or after heavy exertion when indoors. Wherever practicable, a physical distancing of six feet should be achieved before the removal of masks, and they should be replaced as soon as safe to do so.
- Masks are optional outdoors for all.
- Updated guidance is expected for youth sports from CDPH and will be provided to athletes and their families directly by the school. Masks will be required when athletes are traveling to a game by a shared transport such as a bus or a district SUV.



**Band/Choir/Drama/After School Enrichment** - Schools will have band, choir/chorus, drama, and after-school enrichment specific to the school sites. Please check with individual schools for more information about these programs. The updated guidance is expected for Band, Choir, and Drama from CDPH and will be provided to families directly by the school.



**Field Trips** - Field trips will be permitted in the 2021-2022 school year. For students who are participating in a school event or being supervised by school staff, face mask guidance for DK-12 settings must be followed regardless of location. Students and staff are required to wear masks while using public or district arranged transportation/buses.



## CLUB OAK PARK - EXTENDED CARE PROGRAM

Club Oak Park will be offered at OHES, BES, ROES, and MCMS (serving students in grades DK through 8)

- Morning care is available beginning at 6:45 am daily
- Afternoon care is available until 6:00 pm daily
- Full-time and part-time contract options are available to meet the varying needs of families
- Non-school daycare is available during school breaks, teacher prep days, and local holidays
- Daily hands-on activities including science, arts & crafts, sports & recreation, gardening, robotics, coding, and more
- Options for students that include both structured and unstructured opportunities to build social and emotional skills
- Flexible scheduling options including part-time and full time; morning only; afternoon only; morning and afternoon
- All health and safety protocols will be followed at Club Oak Park. Masks will be required to be worn by students and staff when indoors.
- For more information visit the Club Oak Park website: [www.opusd.org/ClubOakPark](http://www.opusd.org/ClubOakPark)



# MEALS/NUTRITION/RECESS/LUNCH

## UNIVERSAL SCHOOL MEALS

Our cafeterias will be providing school meals FOR FREE TO ALL OPUSD students throughout the 2021-22 school year. We are excited to return to serving our FRESH scratch-cooked meals. Our dedicated nutrition team will be working diligently to prepare enough meals for every child who wants to enjoy breakfast and/or lunch from our cafeterias. Students do not need to qualify for free or reduced-price meals to take part in this program.

Breakfast will be served during the morning Nutrition/Recess break and lunch will be served during the lunch period at your child's school. Each child may receive ONE breakfast meal and ONE lunch meal from the cafeteria per school day. Please check the [bell schedule](#) at your child's school for specific meal times. Note DK students will only receive breakfast since they do not eat lunch on campus. Lunch is not served on early dismissal days.

Please be informed that all meals must be **pre-ordered in advance**. This is important to help us ensure that we order the supplies we need to prepare enough meals each day for the students who need them. Please do not send your child to school without food unless you have pre-ordered school meals for them. Alternatively, please do not pre-order meals for your child if your child will not pick up the food. For more information about the meals program and for information on how to preorder please visit the Nutrition Services website at [www.opusd.org/domain/17](http://www.opusd.org/domain/17)



## NUTRITION/RECESS/LUNCH

Schools will arrange for eating outdoors as much as feasible. Students will eat outside or at the designated lunch areas on campus. Additional spaces will be designated outside of the lunch area for mealtime seating such as classrooms or the gym/pavilion to help facilitate distancing. OPUSD campuses will maximize physical distance as much as possible while eating (especially indoors). There may be instances, for example, inclement weather or club meetings, where teachers allow students to eat in their classrooms. Students may remove masks to eat or drink in these situations, but must re-apply masks as soon as they finish or if they stop eating for a period of time. Students and staff must maintain 6-foot physical distancing when unmasked while eating indoors. Given the very low risk of transmission from surfaces and shared objects, there will be no single-use items and packaged meals.



## DRINKING FOUNTAINS/WATER FILLING STATIONS

Drinking fountains will be available for filling reusable bottles. Students are encouraged to bring personal, labeled water bottles to refill.





# ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY

## IPADS AND CHROMEBOOKS

All OPUSD students in grades DK-12 will have access to an appropriate device for use during the school day if work is assigned on these devices by the classroom teacher.

**Grades DK-2** - All students will be provided access to iPads as needed in the classroom. These iPads are preloaded with apps that teachers may use in the classroom.

**Grades 3-4** - Each classroom will have Chromebook carts loaded with sufficient Chromebooks for every student.

**Grades 5-12** - All students will need a district-managed take-home Chromebook for the 2021-22 school year.

Families may obtain a district managed Chromebook for their Grade 5-12 students via one of the following methods:

- Purchase Outright (PP - \$540 upfront payment with instant full ownership)
- Lease To Own (LTO - \$360 over two years via a lease agreement with 3 payment options)
- Borrow (no cost to families, must be returned at the end of each school year, additional restrictions on use including no logins with personal accounts and no video streaming services, etc.)

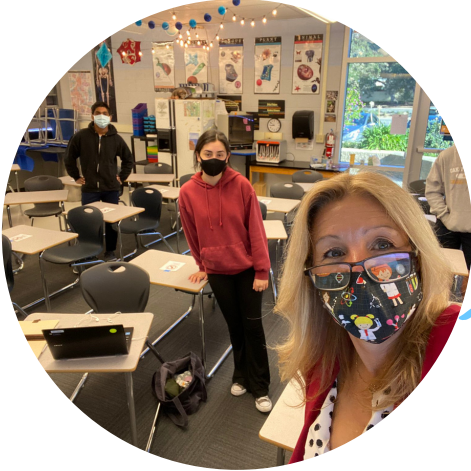
For more information on the Chromebook 1 to 1 program [Click HERE](#).

Students who have insufficient WiFi connectivity at home to complete schoolwork on their Chromebooks may request assistance in obtaining a WiFi hotspot from the technology department.





# ACADEMIC & SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL SUPPORT



*Together  
We Can!*



## ASSESSING STUDENT LEARNING NEEDS

OPUSD will be measuring student learning needs at the beginning of the year for all students.

**Elementary:** Students in grades K-5 will utilize a universal screening tool called FastBridge to identify skill gaps in Math and English Language Arts. Teachers will also conduct literacy assessments, consistent with Reading and Writing Workshop practices. Elementary schools will focus on building classroom routines, establishing a welcoming learning environment, and building social connections among students. All students will experience team building and cooperative games in order to build comfort and confidence.

**Middle School:** Students in grades 6-8 will utilize a universal screening tool called FastBridge to identify skill gaps in Math and English Language Arts. Additionally, students will be assessed with the Initial Knowledge Check in ALEKS to identify learning needs in math. MCMS will host an orientation for 6th and 7th graders prior to the start of school. During the first weeks of school, lunchtime activities will help students connect with peers and the school.

**High School:** Teachers in grades 9-12 will assess and/or reteach foundational skills as needed based on discipline-specific diagnostic assessments. OPHS will host an orientation for 9th and 10th graders prior to the start of school. Throughout the first few weeks of school, Advanced Peer Counselors will host a welcome back event for students. The administration is planning Friday lunchtime events to include games and music to help students connect with peers and the school.

## ACADEMIC SUPPORTS & EXPANDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES (ELO)

For the 2021-22 school year, OPUSD will utilize special funding to support the learning needs of students. Included in the [ELO plan](#) are a number of academic supports, including: increased elementary intervention staff for literacy and numeracy, access to online math programs (IXL for grades DK-5 and ALEKS for grades 6-8), increased classroom aide support in grades DK-5, and increased after school enrichment opportunities and tutoring at all schools.. Additionally, all OPUSD students have access to [Paper](#), an online, 24/7 tutoring service.

## STAFF DEVELOPMENT & SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

The focus of staff development prior to the start of school is how to meet the social-emotional needs of students returning to our campuses. An emphasis on school and classroom culture is prioritized over curriculum for the first weeks of school.

Specific social-emotional topics include Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, Social Emotional Learning Formative Assessments, CASEL's 3 Signature Practices, and Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS).



# INDEPENDENT STUDY OPTION

## OPIS VIRTUAL - AN ALTERNATIVE TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION

For the 2021-2022 school year only, the District will be offering an Independent Study option through our Oak Park Independent School's Virtual Program. Distance Learning (DL) that was offered last year will not be available this year.

### What is the Oak Park Independent School (OPIS) Virtual Program?

The OPIS Virtual Program includes a mix of synchronous and asynchronous instruction and live interaction. Assembly Bill 130 requires an independent study option to be available for the 2021-2022 school year to students whose health would be put at risk by in-person instruction, as determined by the parent or guardian.

### The OPIS Virtual Program will follow the State requirements for the 2021-2022 school year:

- Discovery Kindergarten to Grade 3 — daily synchronous instruction for all students throughout the school year.
- Grades 4 through 8 — daily live interaction and at least weekly synchronous instruction for all students throughout the school year.
- Grades 9 through 12 — at least weekly synchronous instruction for all students throughout the school year.

### Terminology

- **“Live interactions”** means interaction between the pupil and local educational agency classified or certificated staff, and may include peers, provided for the purpose of maintaining school connectedness, including, but not limited to, wellness checks, progress monitoring, provision of services, and instruction. This interaction may take place in person, or in the form of internet or telephonic communication.
- **“Synchronous instruction”** means classroom-style instruction or designated small group or one-on-one instruction delivered in person, or in the form of internet or telephonic communications, and involving live two-way communication between the teacher and pupil. Synchronous instruction will be provided by the teacher.
- **“Asynchronous instruction”** means that the student works independently.

OPIS Virtual is a voluntary option and is NOT the same as DL provided during the pandemic.

- In the OPIS Virtual Program, students will complete their work independently at home based on an online, standards-aligned curriculum.
- Student attendance will be monitored through virtual check-ins and completion of independent work.
- This program may not be appropriate for all students. Prior to enrollment, parents and students have a right to request a conference with the school administrator.
- Students will need to disenroll from their current school to enroll in this program. Students can return back to in-person learning at a traditional school within 5 days by re-enrolling at the desired school. We cannot guarantee placement back at their school for elementary students if they return to a traditional school. A student could be placed at any one of our three elementary schools.
- If a student has an IEP or 504 Plan, enrollment in Independent Study is a placement decision and is only allowed if the Student's IEP or 504 Plan specifically provides for that participation; an IEP or 504 meeting is required prior to any change of placement to OPIS.
- If you are interested in our Independent Study option, please complete the [OPIS Virtual Program Interest Form](#). Once you have submitted the Interest Form, Mr. Cromwell will contact you regarding the next steps. Please note that submitting this form does not automatically enroll your child in the program.
- If your student is currently enrolled in OPIS and you would like more information about the OPIS Virtual Program, please contact Principal Kent Cromwell at [kcromwell@opusd.org](mailto:kcromwell@opusd.org).

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

OPUSD understands you may have questions about how we are preparing for students joining us once again in the classroom and the health and safety COVID-19 measures in place. Visit [www.opusd.org](http://www.opusd.org) and click on Return to School 2021-2022 for regular updates. The [Frequently Asked Questions document](#) is updated regularly as more information becomes available. Below we have included current FAQs as part of this Back to School Guide.

## VACCINES

### **Q. Will students be required to have the COVID-19 vaccine to attend school?**

A. No, OPUSD follows the State of California's requirements for student immunizations, and there have been no new regulations concerning the COVID-19 vaccine. All other routine immunizations, however, are still required.



## IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION

### **Q. Schools will return in person at full capacity. What does that mean?**

A. Per CDPH, we expect COVID-19 rates to decline over time and vaccination rates to increase. Therefore, we plan for all students to return to schools in person without the need to rotate schedules in a hybrid learning model. Strong safety measures including face coverings, hospital-grade air filters, hand washing/sanitizing will help keep our students healthy.



## PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 IN SCHOOLS

### **Q. Are California school districts mandated to follow the CDPH guidelines?**

A. Yes, all California schools (public, charter, and private) are required to follow the local public health and/or CDPH guidelines (COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2021-22 School Year).



### **Q. What are the new sanitizing measures being taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19?**

A. OPUSD has taken many steps to help keep facilities clean and students safe. This includes hand sanitizing stations in all classrooms and multiple campus locations. Electrostatic sprayers for school custodial staff to disinfect surfaces quickly. MERV-11 Filters in all HVAC units. Co2 sensors in every classroom.



### **Q. Will my child be required to wear a face covering all day while at school?**

A. Face coverings must be worn by all students and staff on a school campus while indoors or riding the bus. Students may remove their face covering while outside but will need to remember to put it back on when they go inside or get on the bus. Every classroom has extra face masks in case a student needs to replace a mask while at school.



### **Q. Will temperature checks and health screenings be required prior to entering the school?**

A. Students and staff are required to conduct daily health and screening checks at home prior to coming to schools, including ensuring a temperature below **99.5** and no cold, cough, or flu-like symptoms. Individuals should stay home if they have had any symptoms related to COVID-19 within the past 10 days, which include flu-like symptoms such as fever, coughing or shortness of breath, chills, muscle or body pain, fatigue, headache, sore throat, nausea, or vomiting, diarrhea, congestion or runny nose, or new loss of taste or smell, or if they are subject to quarantine due to being in close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual.



### **Q. Will, there be physical distancing requirements?**

A. No. Specific physical distancing requirements will not be implemented. Our safety plan includes essential COVID-19 mitigation measures such as mask wearing, hand hygiene, regular disinfecting, high-grade ventilation systems, and more.





# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 IN SCHOOLS

### **Q. Will, there be handwashing/hand sanitizer stations?**

A. Yes, hand sanitizer stations and hand-washing stations will be in place around the campuses. Students will be encouraged to use hand sanitizer upon entering and exiting the classrooms.



### **Q. Will, there be cleaning and disinfecting taking place?**

A. Enhanced cleaning schedule will continue to be implemented. Each classroom, restroom, lunch area, and office will be fully cleaned each day. High touch areas (doorknobs, faucets, light switches) will be sanitized regularly. Staff will have cleaning supplies to clean high-touch surfaces in the classroom throughout the day. Disinfection of rooms or surfaces will take place in the event of a possible or confirmed exposure.



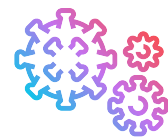
### **Q. What happens if a student with COVID-19 symptoms comes to school?**

A. If students exhibit COVID-19 symptoms while at school, we will isolate them with supervision, contact parents, and monitor their symptoms in consultation with a District nurse to determine if District contact tracing is needed. If COVID-19 is suspected, students will be offered free testing and sent home to quarantine in accordance with public health requirements. If a student exhibits symptoms, the District nurse will evaluate the student in consultation with their parent/guardian(s).



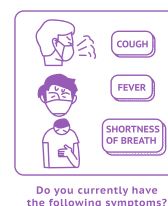
### **Q. If there is an outbreak at a school, how will it be addressed?**

A. If 3 or more students in a single classroom test positive for COVID-19, all students in the classroom will be sent home for 10 days or until each student tests negative. At a school level, if 5% of the total number of teachers, students, or staff test positive within a 14-day period, the District may need to close the campus to in-person learning. OPUSD will provide information on the continued learning plan if this situation occurs.



### **Q. What is included in Contact Tracing?**

A. In accordance with CDPH guidelines, contact tracing in our schools includes identifying the limited number of other students and staff with whom a COVID-19 positive individual has come into close contact for a prolonged period of time. Per CDPH, prolonged close contact is defined as less than 6 ft for 15 minutes or longer. We will notify the parent or guardian of any student who has been identified as meeting this CDPH guideline for exposure and send affected students and staff home per public health requirements.



### **Q. What will happen to my school if confirmed COVID-19 cases are discovered?**

A. If confirmed COVID-19 cases are discovered within a single classroom, our school District nurse and Director of Student Support and School Safety will immediately identify all students who may have been exposed, offer COVID testing, and work with parents and VCPH to contain the exposure as quickly as possible. This will minimize the impact on the overall school. If students in multiple classrooms have confirmed cases, we will take swift action and may need to stop all on-campus, in-person instruction for a two-week period. While at home, students will be equipped with independent study resources to stay on track with their learning.



The health and safety information in this guide is based on the current health and safety requirements from CDPH at the time of this document's release. CDPH has released K-12 School Guidance Questions and Answers. You can read them [HERE](#).

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

**Q. My child receives special education instruction. What will instruction look like during the 2021-2022 school year?**

A. The District will provide the special education and related services in each student's 504 Plan or IEP. Families will be given the option to participate in 504 and IEP meetings via an online meeting platform. Your child's special education or related service provider will be in communication with you at the beginning of the school year regarding the specifics of your child's schedule of services.



## VISITORS ON CAMPUS

**Q. Will visitors be allowed at Oak Park USD Schools/Facilities?**

A. In the 2021-2022 school year, visitors will continue to be limited in schools. In-person meetings may take place for parent conferences, PTO meetings, and other essential events (registrations, orientations, back-to-school night, school tours) determined by the principal, in which case face coverings will be required. Classroom and office volunteers will not be permitted.



**Q. If I need assistance from the school, may I just show up?**

A. Please call or send email messages in lieu of visiting the school for assistance. While school offices are open, we are requesting whenever possible that visitors attempt to conduct business via phone or email, to limit the number of people on site. Whenever this is not possible, please contact the school site to schedule an appointment.



**Q. If I have scheduled an appointment on campus, what do I do?**

A. All pre-approved visitors should [self-monitor for symptoms and temperatures](#) at home. If symptomatic, do not enter school facilities. Pre-approved visitors must wear a face-covering upon entering a school facility and are asked to respect social distancing protocols. Check-in at the front office for a visitor badge.



## SCHOOL MEALS

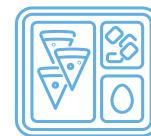
**Q. Will the drinking fountains be operational?**

A. Drinking fountains will be available for filling reusable bottles. Students are encouraged to bring personal, labeled water bottles to refill.



**Q. Will Nutrition Services be providing service on-site?**

A. Our cafeterias will be providing school meals FOR FREE TO ALL OPUSD students throughout the 2021-22 school year. Students do not need to qualify for free or reduced-price meals to take part in this program. Breakfast will be served during the morning Nutrition/Recess break and lunch will be served during the lunch period at your child's school. Each child may receive ONE breakfast meal and ONE lunch meal from the cafeteria per school day. Please check the bell schedule at your child's school for specific meal times.



Please be informed that all meals must be pre-ordered in advance. This is important to help us ensure that we order the supplies we need to prepare enough meals each day for the students who need them. Please do not send your child to school without food unless you have pre-ordered school meals for them. Alternatively, please do not pre-order meals for your child if your child will not pick up the food. More information on school meals can be found on page 12.



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

### Q. Will there be athletics?

A. Please visit the Oak Park High School Athletics website for information about Athletic clearances, medical physicals, waivers, insurance, tryouts, and other information. The current guidance for athletics is as follows:

All athletes participating in conditioning, practicing, or competition must observe the face-covering guidelines, even with heavy exertion as tolerated.



### Q. Will there be Band, Choir, Drama, and Other Extracurricular Activities?

A. Schools will have band, choir/chorus, and drama, and before and after-school enrichment specific to their school sites. Please check with individual schools for more information about these programs. Updated guidance is expected for Band, Choir, and Drama from CDPH and will be provided to families directly by the school.



## VIRTUAL LEARNING OPTION

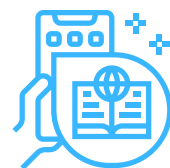
### Q. Is there a virtual option for students who do not want to attend in-person instruction?

A. The state legislature did not renew SB 98, which allowed districts to provide virtual learning last year. Assembly Bill 130 requires an independent study option to be available for the 2021-2022 school year to students whose health would be put at risk by in-person instruction, as determined by the parent or guardian. OPUSD will be offering the OPIS Virtual Program for students who would like a virtual option. Find more information on the OPIS Virtual program on page 15 of this guide.



### Q. If I choose the OPIS Virtual Program will my child lose their spot in their current school?

A. Students will need to disenroll from their current school to enroll in this program. Students can return back to in-person learning at a traditional school within 5 days by re-enrolling at the desired school. We cannot guarantee placement back at their school for elementary students if they return to a traditional school. A student could be placed at any one of our three elementary schools.



### Q. How and where do families request their child's return to in-person school?

A. Families can request to transfer back to a traditional school by contacting the OPIS Principal or Counselor. The District is required to allow this return to take place within 5 days of the request. Please be advised return to the same elementary school will depend on space in the school at that grade level. MCMS and OPHS will try to keep the student's schedule of classes.



### Q. How is OPUSD measuring student learning needs at the beginning of the year?

**Elementary:** Students in grades K-5 will utilize a universal screening tool called FastBridge to identify skill gaps in Math and English Language Arts. Teachers will also conduct literacy assessments, consistent with Reading and Writing Workshop practices.

**Middle School:** Students in grades 6-8 will utilize a universal screening tool called FastBridge to identify skill gaps in Math and English Language Arts. Additionally, students will be assessed with the Initial Knowledge Check in ALEKS to identify learning needs in math.





**High School:** Teachers in grades 9-12 will assess and/or reteach foundational skills as needed based on discipline-specific diagnostic assessments.



# DAILY MORNING ROUTINE

## DAILY MORNING ROUTINE CHECKLIST

Every day that your child(ren) attends school, we ask that parents ensure the following four things are done:

-  **Complete a home screening checklist** - Each morning, you'll need to check your child(ren) for COVID-19 symptoms before sending them to school.
-  **Put on a face mask** - Before your child(ren) leaves home, be sure they are properly wearing a face mask. Remind them it's important that the face mask covers their nose and mouth at all times while indoors or while using public transport unless they are eating or drinking. Note: If your child(ren) needs accommodations because they are unable to wear a face mask, contact your child's school to make arrangements.
-  **Send a clean water bottle** - OPUSD has bottle filling stations all around campus. Encourage your child(ren) to use them.
-  **Check ParentSquare for any updates from the school** - OPUSD uses the ParentSquare platform for the district, school, and teacher communications, primarily with email, text, and app notifications. ParentSquare automatically generates an account for each parent/guardian, using their preferred email address and phone number. Download the app or log into the ParentSquare web portal at [www.ParentSquare.com](http://www.ParentSquare.com). Please take a moment to review the following helpful resources and familiarise yourself with ParentSquare:
  - [Click here for ParentSquare FAQs](#)
  - [3-minute Video Overview of ParentSquare](#)
  - [ParentSquare Tips for Parents](#)



*School Begins August 9th*