

## 2021 Return to School FAQs

The following questions and answers are an attempt to clarify any concerns or questions that you may have as we look at returning to school. As we have learned with this pandemic, the following answers may change as more scientific data becomes available.

### **How safe is it for students to return to in-person learning when COVID-19 is still in our community?**

The [Centers for Disease Control](#), [American Academy of Pediatrics](#), and [California Department of Public Health](#) agree that it is safe for students to return to school for in-person learning when the right safety measures, like masks, are in place. They all support in-person learning as the best and safest place for most students to learn and engage with their peers.

### **Will students be required to wear masks when we return to school?**

All students must wear masks indoors unless they have a medical exemption provided by a medical professional. This is required by the [California Department of Public Health](#) (and recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics and Centers for Disease Control.) All schools must follow this CDPH direction. Students are not required to wear masks outdoors.

### **Do teachers and school staff have to wear masks?**

While they are indoors and around students, yes. When staff are in indoor areas that are away from students, such as an office, they may remove their masks if they are fully vaccinated. [Learn more.](#)

### **What should I do if my student cannot wear a mask?**

If your student is unable to wear a mask and qualifies for an [exemption](#), they must wear a non-restrictive alternative, such as a face shield with a drape on the bottom edge, as long as their condition permits it.

### **Will there be social distancing?**

No. Students will not be required to stay 6 ft apart anymore. However, new CDPH guidelines will require students to be distanced while eating lunch.

### **Will Parents/Guardians be allowed on campus?**

Parents will only be allowed on campus when it is essential and if they have been fully vaccinated or have a negative Covid test dated during the past 7 days.

### **What will be the school hours?**

Student drop off will begin at 8:10 am

School will start at 8:25 am for all students.

TK/K will be dismissed at 11:50 am from August 18th till November 19th and will then be dismissed at 1:30 starting November 29th (after Thanksgiving Break).

Grades 1-3 will be dismissed at 2:30 pm.

Grades 4-6 will be dismissed at 3:05 pm.

On Wednesdays, all students (excluding TK/K from August to November) will be dismissed at 1:30 pm.

### **Will there be an option for Distance Learning/Independent Study?**

Yes. Families opting for Independent Study will be allowed to do so. However, Independent Study is not the same as Distance Learning. Students choosing to enroll in Independent Study will only meet with their teacher 2-3 times a week and will be expected to do the majority of their work independently. Kenwood

School District will contract with a local, larger school district to provide this program. Independent Study teachers will NOT be Kenwood School teachers and these students must unenroll from Kenwood School and enroll in the partner district. Families living outside of Kenwood School District Boundaries will have to obtain Inter District Transfer Request forms from their home school district to take to the partner district. We are currently working with Rincon Valley Union School District to create this Independent Study opportunity. Please contact the office if you would like more information.

**Will drop off and pick-up be the same as it was during the end of last school year?**

Students can begin arriving at school after 8:10 am and walk directly to their classrooms. Parents that drive their children to school are asked to make safe choices when dropping off and picking students up at the front of the school. If we all work together, this can be a quick and easy process.

**Will there be After School Care?**

Yes. We are currently advertising for a Cougar Club director. However, we will still open the Cougar Club up to all students choosing to stay after school. The rates have increased from \$8/hr to \$9/hr.

**Will the school serve lunch? If so, where will the students eat?**

Yes. Students will eat lunch in their normal locations, outside on the picnic tables. Rates have also increased for school lunches from \$4.00 to \$5.00 for lunch and \$3.00 to \$4.00 for salads.

**Will vaccines be required for students?**

Currently, the COVID-19 vaccination is under Emergency Use Authorization. Until it has full FDA approval, it cannot be required by schools. At the time that it is approved, schools will likely look to the state for direction on whether or not they can or should require the vaccine.

**What safety measures will be in place to protect my student?**

We will be following many of the same safety measures that were in place last year, including:

- Handwashing
- Enhanced cleaning practices
- Increased air ventilation
- More time spent outside
- Contact tracing

**Will there be health checks as students enter campus?**

No. Daily Health Checks are not needed at this time. Staff will, however, keep close eyes on our students and we will check temperatures for any student not feeling well. Students not feeling well will be monitored in our isolation room and parents will be called to pick up their children as quickly as possible.

**What special things will my child need for the first day of school during COVID-19?**

Your child should come wearing a face covering and a backup face covering. The school will have face masks available for those that forget or lose theirs. It is also recommended that your child bring a refillable water bottle as the drinking fountains will be turned off.

**How can I reassure my young child about starting school?**

Consider taking your child to visit the school. School grounds are open to the public during non-school hours. Touring the grounds can help your child feel more familiar and comfortable with the campus.