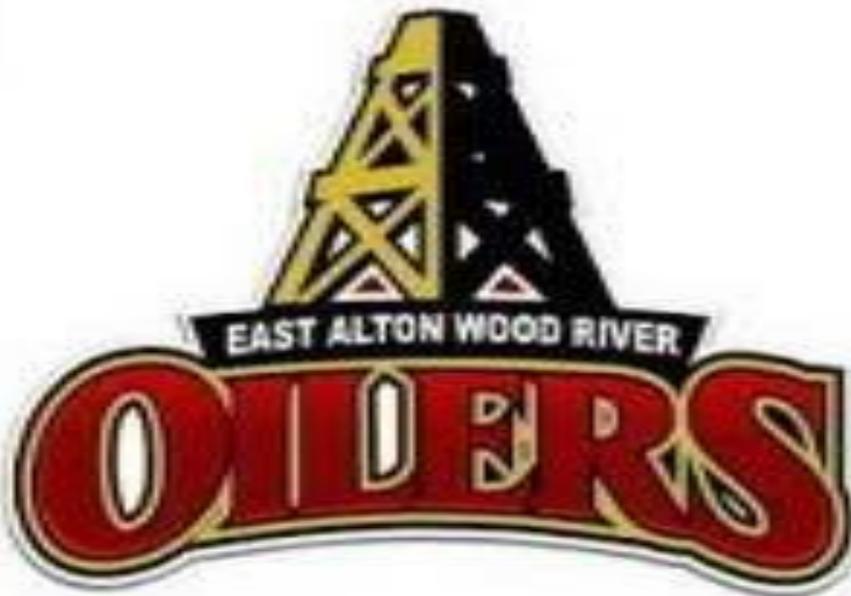


EAWR HIGH SCHOOL

RETURN TO SCHOOL PLAN

2020-2021



EAWR High School: Return-to-School Plan - 2020-21 School Year.

Return-to-School Transition Team and Acknowledgements

The EAWR would like to thank and recognize the members of Local #3401 for their input, concerns, and cooperation throughout the summer's planning process. In particular, the Board would like to thank the members of the Labor-Management Committee for their individual and collective contributions to the Plan:

Kathy Bense - Local #3401 Co-President & EAWR #14 Bookkeeper
Jennifer Boyd - Local #3401 Co-President & Math Teacher
John Pearson - Superintendent & Title Grants Coordinator
Leigh Robinson - Principal & Parent Representative

The Board would also like to thank other contributors to not only this effort but have been and/or will continue to be of invaluable assistance to the Return-to-School Plan: Kevin Gockel - Asst. Principal, Mark Beatty - Dean/Athletic Director, Gerry Mattix-Wand-Tech Director, Sylvia Fitzgerald-Berry - Cafeteria Director, Emily Zipprich - Special Education Division Chair, Messina Lenger - Region III Special Education Cooperative Director Michael Moxey - Maintenance and Transportation Director, and Kelly Naville - School Nurse.

The Board also realizes that the success of this Plan will largely rest on the shoulders of all of our EAWR teachers, staff, parents, and students and wishes to stress the importance of partnership between the District and its parents and students in seeing us through these stressful and difficult times ahead.

The Plan also is based on the idea that it is a "work-in-progress," and that amendments almost certainly will be made as necessary.

Communication with Parents and Students Re: The Return-to-School Plan

EAWR will provide numerous avenues of information, including but not limited to, the school Website, the school's social media sites, student emails, School Messenger "robocalls," Google Classroom, and other avenues. If teachers are not permitted by emergency order to be present at school, the District will provide devices to its teachers so that the parent and student can contact the teacher at his/her house, **directly** over his/her school desktop extension, as well as by e-mail, Google Classroom, and the like.

Transition from Remote Learning to On-Site Learning (or Back to Full Remote Learning)

EAWR teachers will meet to share ideas and develop plans for: 1) Assessing where students' progress is after the remote learning of 2019-20; 2) Plan for transition activities and priorities to address learning gaps and to bring students to grade level; and 3) Identify students that were more at-risk during the closure and provide them extra supports.

The school administration will also conduct both student and staff orientation to the many new procedures and operations they will encounter on arrival at school during the 3rd week of August. Several of those new procedures and operations are described in this Plan.

Since our region, county, or community may be ordered at some time to return to a Phase III of the Governor's Restore Illinois Plan (due to a resurgence of the COVID-19 virus), this Return-to-School Plan calls for the return to full remote learning, as was the case in April and May of 2020 - with the change

being that, unless directed otherwise by state order, work and credit for classes will still be counted as in-person learning (See below).

Instruction and Grading

If in remote learning mode - whether for all or a part of the daily instruction - **grading and credit shall be awarded - just as normal**. It is our aim to include as much in-person (face-to-face) or synchronous instruction (i.e. video, Google Meets, Zoom meetings) as possible. EAWR will continue to examine flexible ways to maximize the number of minutes of direct in-person or other live contact between students and their teachers.

This is supported by the guidance document from the Illinois State Board of Education: “Learning activities may include, but are not limited to, in-person instruction, the teacher delivering instruction via recorded video or synchronous platform, remote small group work via breakout room or conference call, independent/flexible student work time, and virtual/telephone teacher-student check-ins. If using non-interactive platforms, students must have means to confer with an educator and receive feedback before assignments are graded or assessments are administered. (p. 11 of “Starting the 2020-21 School Year: Transition Joint Guidance - June 23, 2020”)

As you will see in the Plan under the "Blended Learning" heading, EAWR will use a blend of in-person instruction and remote learning for a minimum of 300 minutes (5 clock hours) per day, with most of the instruction being in-person classes, as normal.

NOTE: This Return-to-School Plan is designed to accommodate a return to remote instruction in the event of a resurgence of the virus or a second wave of it in the fall or winter of 2020-21. Remote instruction will operate as was done in the previous statewide school closure period (March-May 2020), with the exception of regular grades and work credit rules would control. If a 100% remote learning delivery resumes, EAWR teachers will adjust teaching methods, assignments, and workload as appropriate and necessary.

Student Attendance

If in remote learning mode, student attendance shall be taken and recorded in Skyward. Attendance requirements will operate as was done in the previous closing period (March-May 2020).

Daily attendance and engagement of students should be expected whether students are participating in classes in-person or remotely. Districts, schools, and teachers should make daily contact with all students and families, especially those who are not in attendance or not engaging in classes, whether in-person or remotely. Districts must discontinue practices or rewards that encourage perfect attendance or would discourage individuals from staying at home when they are ill. (pp. 17-18, “Starting the 2020-21 School Year: Transition Joint Guidance - June 23, 2020”)

Blended Learning Option and Schedule

As one might have seen in the ISBE guidance, an emphasis is given to in-person learning. The reasons are obvious from a learning perspective as well as a student's need for the social interaction and support services any school can provide its students. Learning just works better when the students are here receiving live and in-person teaching and the array of support services EAWR offers (Guidance counseling, breakfast and lunch, school psychologist, physical and driver education, tutoring and IEP support, just to name a few)

With that background in mind, the EAWR Return-to-School Plan Team has examined and considered many different versions of daily schedules, taking into account a balance of student and staff safety with serving educational and support needs of its students. It considered alternating days of in-person attendance; offering full-days and regular class length periods of instruction; and other solutions. However, it is the opinion of the Team and the Board of Education that none of the options studied maximizes efforts towards student and staff safety while caring for the importance of in-person learning as much as a "blended learning" approach.

One of the many safety hurdles to overcome arose in the operation of lunch. Since the Phase IV rules require no more than 50 persons per space and also required 6' of separation wherever possible, regular lunch service on-site would be a huge concern for student and employee safety. EAWR does not have adequate space to meet the guidelines in any sort of a strict manner. We would have needed to build partition walls in the cafeteria to separate lunch lines and to serve the students. Managing lines would have been a large safety issue for keeping 6' of separation with 90 students in the each of the two main service lines (theoretically requiring 540' (180 yards - almost the length of two football fields). Further, EAWR would have to use alternative rooms and other non-cafeteria spaces for feeding students, creating a potential for frequent messes, garbage and pest issues in those spaces.

Even if the high school were to simply distribute bag lunches to its students (with distribution of the lunch bags inside all of the other non-cafeteria spaces, which would make for shorter and faster moving lines), we would still have the issues of lack of adequate and safe separation; students wanting to engage each other in face-to-face conversations (which is understandable); congregating in washrooms, hallways, etc.

Therefore, the idea of the "blended learning" option came to be viewed as the best option for this concern about striking a balance between in-person learning with the need to provide food service to our boys and girls.

EAWR will begin the 2020-21 school year with a blended learning schedule. This schedule will operate with a two-part format, with an 8:00 - 1:00 in-person schedule with all six classes scheduled, followed by a remote learning period that would allow time for reinforcement, practice, on-line quizzes and assessments, show demonstrations via video, use of supplementary videos. Teachers would be present at school, in this scenario, to also assist special needs students in the provision of as-needed in-person instructional and support services or for other students who might need 1-1 attention. Indeed, the special education teachers could automatically build-in any compensatory or other services in accordance with the student's IEP during this time.

This option would solve the school lunch distancing, supervision, and mess issues, with students having lunch distributed at the end of the 6th period. In other words, all students would have a sack lunch provided to them at the end of the in-person school day.

EAWR Class Schedule - Blended Learning - Beginning of 2020-21 School Year (until Phase V, when the normal bell schedule would be used)

Time	Period	Minutes
7:10 - 7:50	EB Band	40
8:00 - 8:50	1st	50
8:55 - 9:40	2nd	45
9:45 - 10:30	3rd	45
10:35 - 11:20	4th	45

11:25 - 12:10	5th	45	
12:15 - 1:00	6th	45	
Sack Lunch Distribution	-----		Buses to leave at approx. 1:10 p.m.
Total In-Person Minutes		275	
1:50 - 2:25	Remote Learning Period (35 minutes M/T/W/TH)		
1:50 - 2:15	Remote Learning Period (25 minutes F)		

- **Faculty Arrives at 7:30 am
- **Faculty Lunch—1:05-1:50 pm
- **CPT 2:25-2:55
- **Faculty Dismissal 2:55 pm M/T/W/TH and 2:15 pm on F

If some accommodations need to be made for certain special education or 504 students regarding lunch, we will make necessary cafeteria and/or transportation arrangements.

Cafeteria / Food Service

EAWR cafeteria staff will distribute lunches at the end of morning in-school session for take-home (See Blended Learning discussion, above).

Breakfast will still be operated from 7:30 - 7:55 as before, but with the same menu offerings given via the summer meals program. Plans are for in-person dining, provided separation and the total number of 50 persons in the cafeteria is maintained. If the numbers are too high or students have difficulty in abiding by the separation rules, other alternatives will be made (such as “grab and go” and eating outside in the parking lot behind the Library, for example).

Hall and Stair Traffic / Signage

In the spirit of maximizing safety, EAWR will utilize staircases and hall traffic to minimize students and staff coming into face-to-face contact during passing periods. EAWR will create one-way (Up and Down) staircases in the East and Main buildings. Also, hallway traffic will use "Keep Right" rules. To avoid face-to-face bottlenecks at the Library staircase, we will close-off the east girls locker room doors and use the fire escape stairs on that side of the Auditorium Gym to flow one-way traffic out of the Main Building to the East (and South) Buildings. One-way traffic from the East Building will continue to use the stairs adjacent to the Library to go into the Main Building.

The Library staircase shall be an "UP" staircase. The staircase adjacent to the elevator will be a "DOWN" staircase. The staircases on either end of the 1st Floor hall of the Main Building will be unchanged. The stairwell adjacent to the Math and Business classrooms (with the large plate glass windows) will be an "UP" staircase.

The East Building will use the "Keep Right" approach to the three pairs of staircases. Using the perspective of someone on the first floor facing the stairs, the right pair of stairs would be "UP" and the left stairs being "DOWN."

We will mark halls and staircases with signs and/or floor stickers reminding students to “Keep Right;” "Keep Social Distancing;" and "UP" or "DOWN."

Face Masks

EAWR will remind students and staff of the ISBE requirement that all personnel and students shall wear face masks while in school buildings. Face masks shall cover the nose and mouth at all times.

EAWR will provide free washable and reusable Oiler face masks to any student that desires one. A student or employee that forgets to bring a face mask to school will have a temporary paper face mask provided. Students and employees may, at their discretion, wear their own personal face masks, too. Further, students and staff are encouraged to wash their masks regularly. It is our experience that the safest and easiest method is to quickly handwash the cloth face masks in dish soap and then air dry.

The EAWR Student-Parent Handbook will require the use of face masks, with a set of disciplinary consequences for students. Further, employees will be subject to progressive discipline for not wearing masks at school. Some exceptions to mask wearing (for medical reasons) are provided by the ISBE guidance.

The student or employee who has a medical condition that prohibits the wearing of a face mask **must see Nurse Kelly** with a written and signed note from a competent physician licensed in Illinois to practice medicine and surgery in all its branches, a chiropractic physician licensed under the Medical Practice Act of 1987, a licensed advanced practice registered nurse, a licensed physician assistant, or a Christian Science practitioner residing in this State and listed in the Christian Science Journal.

Symptom Checking / Self-Certification

Parents and students will be informed and reminded throughout the school year to not have the student come to school if he/she is ill with cold or flu like symptoms.

Parents will also be informed about “self-certification,” by which a parent - by the very act of sending their son/daughter to school - is certifying that their child has no fever or COVID-19 symptoms. This information will also be sent out periodically to parents via various forms of communications and reminders of their duty to not send their sons or daughters to school if they are feverish or have some of the other listed COVID-19 symptoms.

EAWR will also reinforce these self-certifications with the use of thermal imaging camera kiosks at the two main entrances to the campus that measure a person’s body temperature and sound a signal if the temperature exceeds normal body temperatures or if the person is not wearing a mask. An employee will be present at the two entrances monitoring the entrance of the students into the building. If the device alerts the employee that a student has just entered with an above normal temperature, that student will be escorted to the Nurse's office for a symptom check.

Further, EAWR is looking to also develop an app or other electronic device whereby a student - upon entering a building (or even coming to school) - would sign-in and thereby also signify that he/she is symptom free. This would be done every day.

Procedures if a Student or Employee Has COVID-19 Symptoms at School

In accordance with IDPH and ISBE guidance, the school nurse - after conducting a thorough symptom check of the student - will isolate that student in a designated empty room with an employee supervising and monitoring that student until a parent or guardian arrives to take the student for a COVID-19 screening test or to the doctor. The school nurse will then notify the Madison County Health Department of the student's symptoms and that student's parent information for a health department follow-up.

The school will follow the CDC and health department guidelines concerning the isolation and quarantine periods for a student who has tested positive and will require a release from a physician to return to school.

The designated room where the student with COVID-19 symptoms was isolated will be thoroughly disinfected and cleaned by custodial staff, after the student has departed the building.

If an employee is determined to have COVID-19, that employee will be sent home with the same processes described above.

Office, Classroom, and Common Area Safety and Cleanliness

The District will provide see-through barriers that are intended to assist the shielding of persons on either side from airborne spread of COVID-19. These will be purchased and placed on teachers and employee desks. Further, the District plans to separate students standing at urinals and lavatories by shutting off access to alternate lavatories and urinals, to maintain a safe and reasonable separation. Also, if the District decides to serve plate lunches during Phase IV, it plans to erect additional barriers between the students and the food, as well as stopping the practice of self-service food distribution.

Students shall wear face masks at all times when on campus (See separate Face Masks discussion). Also, some students who share common devices (such as lab equipment, computers, machines in vocational classes, et al.) will be provided disposable gloves whereby they can perform the work but serve to assist in the protection against any potential microbes on those surfaces.

Classrooms and common areas will be regularly cleaned and/or disinfected daily. Custodians shall use the aerosol “mistors” with a disinfectant spray in common areas where the surfaces can tolerate a sprayed application. Also, coaches, teachers, and custodial staff may use other means to disinfect, including the use of ultraviolet sticks that can clean surfaces that cannot tolerate a moisture-based disinfectant (e.g. athletic balls and other sports equipment that is shared or touched by others, computer keyboards or other electronic devices; textbooks or other books and materials).

All classrooms will be provided with hand sanitizers and other cleaning products. Free-standing hand sanitizer dispensers will be strategically placed at entrances around campus.

Teachers will be required to use seating charts, so as to assist in contact tracing if one of their students has tested positive for COVID-19. Teachers will be reminded to dismiss students a few at a time to avoid bunching at the classroom door.

Some teachers and other staff may be supplied - from time-to-time, in accordance with their duties - with disposable gowns, gloves and clear plastic face shields, with the understanding that face masks must also be worn under the shields.

Physical Education

PE students will not dress-out nor use the locker rooms for that purpose until further notice. Further, activities or games involving close contact will be eliminated, with PE activities limited to those that can be used in accordance with the ISBE guidance document.

Home Bound Instruction

No in-house "Home Bound" teaching will be available, in order to protect both the family and the teacher. However, the high school will work with the parent and student on providing like services via on-line delivery (such as "Edgenuity") or the use of "paper & pencil" materials carried by an employee to and from the exterior of the residence.

Oiler Express Cafe Temporarily Closed

Due to the spacing and no self-serve requirements of the ISBE guidance, EAWR regrets to inform students and staff that the coffee shop (the "Oiler Express Cafe") will be closed until further notice.

Bus Transportation / Driver Education (BTW)

“Schools and districts should create procedures to assure compliance with all applicable expectations under state and federal guidelines. **All individuals** on a bus **must wear a face covering**, no more than 50 individuals should be on a bus at one time, and social distancing must be maintained to the greatest extent possible. Students must undergo symptom and temperature checks, which may include self-certification, before boarding a bus. These procedures may need to be updated regularly. Students and families should be aware of procedures and expectations regarding transportation.

Drivers and monitors must wear approved and appropriate PPE and perform regular hand hygiene. See Appendix F for information regarding PPE. Drivers and monitors must undergo symptom and temperature checks or self-certify and verify that they are free of symptoms before the start of each workday. Drivers and monitors who have a temperature greater than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit/38 degrees Celsius or symptoms of COVID-19 may not work. Drivers and monitors who become ill during their route should contact their supervisor immediately. (p. 43, Transition Planning - Phase IV - ISBE/IDPH)”

Further bus drivers or custodial staff will disinfect the interior surfaces with a disinfectant spray or use of the aerosol mister after each trip.

Bus seats shall be marked so as to keep social distancing between riders. A staggered seat approach would be advisable, if feasible. Marking can be done with colored tape or the like.

Driver education vehicles shall follow the guidelines from the Secretary of State and ISBE, regarding capacity, seat coverings and disinfecting vehicle surfaces after the trip is completed.

APPROVED BY SCHOOL BOARD ACTION: JULY 14, 2020

Resource: "STARTING THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR: JUNE 23, 2020 - PART 3 - TRANSITION JOINT GUIDANCE," Illinois State Board of Education and Illinois Dept. of Public Health