

# CARTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## REOPENING PLAN: IN-PERSON OPTION

### FALL 2020

I am so excited to have the opportunity to welcome students back to Carter Elementary School this Fall! We have prepared a plan for reopening to assist you in your decision making about this upcoming school year. We used input from our staff and over 200 responses to the Carter Elementary family survey to help guide us in our decision making for the upcoming school year. We have made every effort to prioritize student health and safety when creating our plan. We also want our students to have opportunities to socialize and learn with their peers as safely as possible. I understand and value the need for school to feel “normal” for our students as much as possible, but some changes are necessary. Below is a summary of some of the changes that will be in place should your child return to school in August.

If you have additional questions regarding the plan or procedures that will be in place to help you make a decision, please complete [this form](#) and someone from our school will reach out to you within 2 business days. I recognize that this is a difficult decision for many of our families in this community, our state, and throughout our country. We are still a Carter Elementary family and we are still in this together. Please let us know if there is anything else we can do to help our community through these challenging times.

Jessica Birdsong, Principal

	What's changing?	Why?	What is the possible impact?
<b>Arrival</b>	The building will open at 7:10 each morning. All staff and students will have a temperature check when entering the building. Students will be seated in the hallways 6 ft apart, wearing masks until 7:35. Students will be dismissed to classrooms at 7:35.	Temperature scans will screen staff and student health each morning to quickly determine if additional medical attention is needed. When students are gathered in large numbers, masks will be used to help slow transmission of disease.	The car rider line will likely be much slower and traffic more congested, as students will be expected to open their own doors. This will be taken into account when marking absences and tardies.
<b>Breakfast</b>	Students wishing to eat breakfast at school will eat in their homerooms beginning at 7:35. Students will be required to wash their hands with soap and water before and after breakfast.	We can safely distance students within their classroom while allowing them to still socialize with one another. Washing hands is recommended to help slow the transmission of disease.	Students will have additional time to eat after the bell rings at 7:45. Accommodations will still be made for students with food allergies.
<b>Classroom</b>	Student desks will be spaced six feet apart, facing the same direction. During whole group classroom instruction, masks will generally not be required for students or staff. Students will not be allowed to share materials. When students are in partners, small groups, or close proximity to staff for an extended period of time, masks will be worn by all. For students with multiple teachers, staff will travel to students. There may be some additional instances where students will be expected to wear masks based upon the specific conditions of the classroom and learning environment.	Not sharing supplies will slow the spread of germs between students. Students will be at a distance from one another for extended periods of time during which we can provide some relief from the effects of wearing a mask. Limiting student use of other desks and chairs throughout the building will help to slow transmission of disease.	Students will have less opportunities to interact in close proximity with one another during learning. However, teachers are planning for collaboration activities that can occur at a distance whenever appropriate. Both students and staff have the option to wear a mask throughout the entire school day.

<b>Hallways</b>	Students will travel in a line with some distance between each student. All students will be required to wear a mask when traveling in the hallway. Students will be required to wash their hands with soap and water when return to the classroom.	When students are gathered in large numbers, masks will be used to help slow transmission of disease.	Transitions to playground, cafeteria, and ENCORE will likely take longer.
<b>ENCORE</b>	Students will travel to ENCORE classes as a homeroom. Students will be seated 6 ft apart in library, art, music, and Science/ technology. PE (gym) will follow the same distancing expectations as recess. Materials will not be shared. Materials will be sanitized between classes if used for multiple grade levels.	Not sharing supplies will slow the spread of germs between students. Students will be at a distance from one another for extended periods of time during which we can provide some relief from the effects of wearing a mask.	Some activities such as singing, collaborative art projects, and games that require close physical contact will be modified or eliminated until they can be safely implemented.
<b>Lunch</b>	Students will eat in the cafeteria every other week. The other week they will eat in their classroom. Students will be spaced out to no more than 4 children at a table. Masks will be worn to the lunchroom and through the lunch line. Masks will be removed while eating. Students will be required to wash their hands with soap and water before and after lunch. No visitors will be allowed to eat lunch with students.	There is not enough physical space in the cafeteria or unused classrooms to safely distance everyone in the cafeteria during the lunch hours every day. When students are gathered in large numbers, masks will be used to help slow transmission of disease. Washing hands is recommended to help slow the transmission of disease.	Students will eat and socialize with friends at a distance in the cafeteria and within the classroom. Accommodations will still be made for students with food allergies.
<b>Recess</b>	Recess will increase from 20 minutes to 30 minutes daily. Students will be required to wash hands with soap and water before and after recess. Classes will have recess only with their homeroom classmates. Outdoor play areas will be divided areas and each classroom will when they access different areas when weather allows. Playground equipment will be sanitized daily. Masks will not be required when outdoors. Students will not be required to physically distance from one another but will not be allowed to play games that require repeated physical contact such as tag.	Students will have additional time during recess to allow for handwashing and extended transition time. Minimizing the number of students in one area helps slow the transmission of disease. Washing hands is recommended to help slow the transmission of disease.	Indoor recess activities may require students to wear masks if in close proximity to one another for extended periods of time.
<b>Bathroom</b>	Students will not take bathroom breaks as a class. Staff monitors will be stationed in the hallways near each restroom to supervise hygiene procedures and ensure adequate distancing when necessary. Students will be expected to wear a mask. High touch surfaces in bathrooms will be cleaned multiple times a day. Students will be expected to wash hands with soap and water upon returning the classroom. Drinking fountains will be closed.	When students are in common areas, a mask will be worn to help slow the transmission of disease. Washing hands is recommended to help slow the transmission of disease.	Students may have an extended wait time to use the restroom during high usage times of the day. Students may wish to bring a water bottle to school to use during the school day. Sinks may be used to refill water bottles.
<b>Dismissal</b>	Student dismissal will take place from the classroom and hallways outside of the classroom. Students	When students are gathered in large numbers, masks will be	The car rider line will likely be much slower due to the distance students need to travel inside

	will be seated 6ft apart in the hallway and masks will be worn until exiting the building.	used to help slow transmission of disease.	the building to reach the car rider line.
<b>Hygiene Protocols</b>	Handwashing is required for all staff and students before and after meals, after using the restroom, and when entering a new classroom space. Students will be placed at least six feet apart whenever possible when in confined, small spaces. High-fives, handshakes, and hugs will be replaced with other verbal and non-verbal gestures that limit touching. Masks will be required for all staff and students when traveling in common areas such as hallways and cafeteria. Masks will be required throughout the school day for staff and students who are actively coughing and/or sneezing.	When students are in common areas, a mask will be worn to help slow the transmission of disease. Washing hands is recommended to help slow the transmission of disease. Students will be at a distance from one another for extended periods of time during which we can provide some relief from the effects of wearing a mask.	Additional time will be needed to transition to and from activities and classrooms. New routines and procedures will need to be explicitly taught to all students at the beginning of the school year. Additional time will be needed to help students understand why these procedures are in place and helping them to learn new ways of showing one another that we care about each other.
<b>Cleaning Protocols</b>	High touch surfaces in all classrooms (door handles, light switches, etc...) and common areas will be sanitized multiple times throughout the school day. When eating in the classroom, student desks will be sanitized after meals. Deep cleaning will occur in every classroom each evening and will include mopping, sanitizing, and disinfecting all areas. Hallways, bathrooms, playgrounds and common areas will be thoroughly cleaned nightly.	Additional cleaning throughout the school day will help slow the spread of germs and transmission of disease.	Additional time may be needed between instructional activities to complete additional cleaning protocols.
<b>Student Sickness Policies</b>	Students who have a fever of 100.4 or greater will not be permitted at school. Students who get a fever at school will be treated in a quarantine room away from other staff and students. KCS protocol will be followed.	It is important to isolate illness as quickly as possible to slow the transmission of disease. Students who are sick must stay home for their own health and the health of others.	Student absences may increase as a result of the current pandemic situation. Rewards and incentives for attendance will not be offered this school year.
<b>Visitors and Volunteers</b>	No visitors or volunteers will be permitted inside the school building until further notice.	Limiting outside contact from others will slow transmission of disease.	Checkouts and drop-offs will likely take much longer. Caretakers should expect to wait outside of the building and have appropriate ID available.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. Will things ever go back to “normal”?

*We understand how anxious and uncomfortable some children are feeling because their familiar structures and routines have changed so dramatically. We are hopeful to reintroduce familiar practices and activities as it is safe to do so. Some of the new hygiene and cleaning protocols will remain after the pandemic is over because they help to slow the transmission of all diseases. We will continue to take guidance from the CDC, the Knox County Health Department, and our school district to determine when to proceed and what to reintroduce.*

### 2. A student at another Knox County School has some different expectations. Why?

*Every school building and student population is unique. Knox County Schools recognized this and allowed individual schools to determine how best to follow health and safety guidelines with the resources of our school.*

### 3. Will this prevent my child from getting sick?

*This will not prevent your child from getting sick at school. Our reopening plan is designed to create safe and healthy learning spaces and slow down the spreading of germs and the transmission of disease.*

### 4. What if I am still not comfortable with this plan?

*Knox County Schools is offering a virtual option for families who are not comfortable sending their students to a “brick and mortar” campus. You should have received an email from KCS on July 15 with information on how to enroll. If you did not receive this email, please reach out to the school.*

### 5. What should I do if my child is sick?

*Please do not send your child to school if they are sick. If your child has a fever or is showing other signs of possible COVID-19 infection, please take them to your physician to have them tested.*

### 6. Will I know if someone at Carter Elementary has a confirmed case of COVID-19?

*We will follow Knox County Health Department guidelines and notify families of students that may be impacted. Please see the KCS Reopening Plan for details.*

### 7. What precautions are being taken on the school bus?

*Family members will be asked to sit together when riding the bus to and from school. Students will be seated apart from one another if space allows. Students riding the bus to school will have their temperature taken upon arrival at school.*

### 8. Where can I find more details about the plan?

*You can find the KCS district plan [here](#). We will be sending an automated phone message during the week of July 20 to all enrolled families that will include additional information specifically for Carter Elementary.*

### 9. Will my child still get a Chromebook to use if we attend school in-person?

*Your child will be assigned a device during the first week of school that will be used during the school day. In the event we have an extended school closing, Chromebooks will be sent home with students to use for instructional purposes.*

### 10. What are you doing about lost instruction from last school year?

*Our teachers have been carefully planning since April of this past school year to ensure that we are addressing instructional gaps for all students. Instruction is being designed to ensure that students have the opportunity to learn skills needed to master the new grade level standards prior to being taught new information when necessary.*