



Approved 8/31/2021

Safe Return to School Plan
LaMotte School
2021-2022

LaMotte School...Where education and the environment meet.

This document will be reviewed by the LaMotte School trustees on August 17, 2021 and August 31. It contains changes from the initial plan that was released in September, 2020.

This document will change as the conditions in our community change. You will be notified of changes. This has been approved by the Board of Trustees. If you would like to communicate with any of the trustees, please send your emails to boardmembers@lamotteschool.com You are also welcome to contact me through email at lburke@lamotteschool.com

August 12, 2021

Dear Families,

The following is a plan for our Safe Return to School, 2021-2022. This document has been prepared with input from parents, staff, board members, Gallatin County Health Department, Montana State Governor's office, and the CDC. All decisions have been weighed with the safety of YOUR child and our community in mind. Keeping our students safe and in school will be dependent on the fidelity of which all of us follow the protocols we have established. **Let us please work together as a team to keep everyone safe and healthy.**

Please remember that our situation is fluid and we may have to change our procedures at any time. It is our goal to keep you informed as soon as possible when change is imminent. As well, it will be very important that you communicate with the school if you have any concerns. We can't address problems if we don't know about them.

Thank you for your grace as we navigate through these trying times. We did a great job last year keeping kids in school and everyone as healthy as possible, let's keep that going!

Mrs. Burke

Principal/Superintendent

Safety - Facility

Classrooms, Library, Lunch Room, Library, etc	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ All surfaces will be sanitized nightly.❖ Students will sanitize their assigned device frequently.
Restrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Sanitized daily❖ Cleaned during the day - sinks, faucets, paper towel dispensers and soap dispensers
Hallways	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Floors, switches, door knobs, cleaned daily, locker fronts weekly. Water fill station cleaned several times a day

Safety - People

Face Covering	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Based on data the board will determine if face coverings are required, then;❖ Students, staff and other visitors entering LaMotte School shall wear a mask. The masks preferred will be washable cotton with more than one layer of material, or disposable masks that are thrown out after each use. Bandanas and neck gaiters do not count as masks as they do not offer the same amount of protection.❖ Face Shields may be allowed as an accommodation for students following a consultation with Mrs. Burke.❖ In the K/1 classroom, students will be allowed to change from a mask to a shield for specific learning activities, or when the child is resistant to the mask.❖ Masks will go home nightly. Students are encouraged to have several personal masks to ensure they are wearing a clean one and in case one is misplaced.❖ The school will have masks available for student and adult use when needed.
Handwashing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Students will wash hands frequently and will be taught proper washing technique.❖ Students will wash or sanitize hands before and after playing on the playground, before and after lunch, and

	<p>any time they use the restroom.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms and hallways.
Physical Distancing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Students will be assigned to a specific learning space within the classroom. ❖ Distance will be maintained at the greatest degree practical in the classroom.
Visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ When the students and staff are masked, visitors will be allowed in the school with masks worn properly. We ask that visits are limited.

Daily Procedures

Arrival Will ask health dept Address in Sept.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Students will be assigned a section of the playground in which to play. Each class will have an area. Arrival will be from 7:45 - 8:15. ❖ Students will enter the school at 8:15.
Outdoors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Masks will not be required outside.
Lockers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Students will go to lockers in groups that are spread out from each other and only with their classmates. ❖ Older students will carry all their materials to class. They may leave coats and boots, etc in lockers.
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The water fountain will be closed except for the bottle filling portion. All students must bring water daily.
Halls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Students will pass in the halls with only their class.
Lunch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Hot lunch will be provided two day a week. Families will order and pay for lunches at the beginning of each month. ❖ All students are to bring lunch from home if hot lunch has not been ordered. We will have a few microwaves on a cart for students to heat food. ❖ Emergency lunches are required for each child. (shelf stable to be left in their lockers)

After School/Sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The After School Program will run on a limited basis. No more than 15 students will be allowed to attend at a time. Sign ups will be done ahead of time. We will give preference to families that have work conflicts that make it difficult to pick their child(ren) up at 3:20. ❖ The Bear Canyon Sports teams will resume as normal, provided we have interest and a coach.
Restrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Only 2 students will be allowed in the restrooms at a time. There will be an indicator on the outside of the restrooms so students will know how many are inside.
Dismissal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Students will be on the playground in class groups.

Classroom Information

Supplies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Students will use their own supplies. ❖ Each student will be assigned a computer device for use for the school year.
Movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Students may be allowed in the library with time in between classes for cleaning. ❖ PE will be outside or in the annex. ❖ Classes will take “mask breaks” outside. Each class will take breaks daily. ❖ classes will remain in cohorts as much as practical.
Learning groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Small groups of students and individuals working with specialists will work in the lunchroom or in the annex or the empty classroom.
Learning Platform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Students will continue learning the proper use of Google Classroom and Seesaw at the beginning of the year in case the need for remote learning arises.

Illness Monitoring and Procedures

<p>What are the symptoms?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The following checklist includes symptoms to watch for and consult your healthcare provider about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Fever or chills ➤ Cough ➤ Headache ➤ Muscle aches ➤ Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea ➤ New loss of taste or smell ➤ New runny nose or congestion ➤ Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing ➤ Sore throat ❖ Students with these symptoms at school will be isolated until parents pick them up.
<p>Who will be sent home?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Anyone experiencing a fever of greater than 100.4 degrees. ❖ Anyone with a dry persistent cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms on the list above.
<p>Isolation (Positive Cases Staff/Students)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ CDC Guidance doesn't differentiate isolation protocols based upon vaccination status. Based upon that consistent protocol, the GCCHD has authority to issue isolation orders to staff, students, and community members. That authority is not in conflict with HB 702. Protocol: Stay home and isolate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 10 days after your symptoms started, AND ● 24 hours without a fever and not taking any medications to lower fever, such as Tylenol or ibuprofen, AND ● Your symptoms have improved.
<p>Quarantines (Based on Close Contacts via Contact Tracing)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Close Contact Definition: A close contact is a person who was within 6 feet of a person who has tested positive with COVID-19, for more than 15 minutes. Exception: In the K–12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student if both the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time. This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting. ❖ Identifying close contacts will also take into account the ages of students because different ages interact in

	<p>different ways. In some cases, it may be necessary to quarantine entire classrooms in order to contain the spread of the disease.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ In some cases, students identified as close contacts may be asked to have a COVID-19 test, especially if they have symptoms. If the test comes back positive for COVID-19, the Health Department will contact the parent/guardian and work with them to help connect to health care services or social supports.
Don't kids get sick all the time?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ It will be very important that parents do NOT send kids to school that are not feeling well. Please act on the side of precaution.
Teachers are not doctors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ We will rely heavily on the Public Health Nurses at Gallatin County-City Health Department. They are dedicated to assisting us as we navigate through this.

Social/Emotional Impact

Guidance Counselor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Contact the school if your child is showing needs socially, emotionally, or behaviorally.
Students in need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The staff is prepared to assist with any child exhibiting signs of trauma or fear from the pandemic. Please reach out to the teachers if you have concerns.