

2021-22 COVID Protocol

Revised October 8, 2021

Masks

- Will masks be required? Due to the low number of active COVID cases on October 8, 2021, wearing facemasks will be optional. Masks may become required again, if supported by data.
- Board meetings are always open to the public; parents and patrons of the district are welcome and encouraged to attend. Pre-K students and staff must follow DHS and ABC requirements.
- Will the school provide masks? Yes, the school will provide masks to students who arrive without masks; however, students are encouraged to bring their own masks.

Students shall wear masks at all times except for the following:

- Students may remove masks for eating or drinking;
- Students may remove masks and when appropriate social distancing measures are in place as determined by a teacher or school administrator;
- Students may be exempted by the school principal due to a documented medical condition of the student;
- Students may remove masks for specific instructional needs, including physical education activities, as determined by a teacher, in which case the teacher will require appropriate social distancing measures to the extent possible;
- Students may be exempted due to special behavioral or individualized needs as determined by the Director of Special Education or the Superintendent, and
- Masks are not required while participating in athletic activities as determined by the Arkansas Activities Association at this time.

On-Site Visitors and Communication with School Personnel

- Are visitors allowed in school buildings? To minimize exposure and risks, visitors will not be allowed in the school buildings except for the main foyer/office area. We encourage parents to call the school office or email us rather than visiting in person. Parents will not be allowed to eat with their children.
- May I walk my children into the school building? No, parents and guardians may not walk them into the school building, but they may walk their children to the school entrance. Visits to the school will be limited to essential activity.
- How do I contact my child's teacher? Parents may reach teachers via email. Email addresses are listed on the district's website. In certain circumstances, a telephone conference may be appropriate.
- What is the first day of school for students? School will begin on August 16th.
- What about pre-kindergarten students? The pre-kindergarten program has its own set of DHS and ABC rules that the district must follow.
- Who monitors students when they arrive at school? As students arrive, teachers will be on duty to monitor students and assure students are wearing masks and practicing social distancing to the extent possible.

- Should I keep my child home if he/she isn't feeling well? Yes, we will actively encourage students and staff members to stay at home if they are sick. Everyone, students and staff, will be expected to stay home when they are sick.
- How will the district handle someone testing positive for COVID-19? The ADH controls the procedures to be followed once a student or staff member tests positive. We will follow the guidance and direction provided to us by the ADH.
- Will students eat in the cafeteria? Yes, students will eat in the cafeteria. We will seat fewer students at a table and utilize all available tables. Parents will not be allowed to eat with their children.
- Will students use water fountains? No, all students are asked to bring a water bottle, and the district will provide water bottle filling stations.
- Will good hand hygiene be followed? Yes, we will actively teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water. If soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer will be available.
- Will elementary and middle school students have recess? Students will have recess, but recess may not look the same.
- How will I know if information and current guidance changes? We will post announcements on social media and the district website. Follow the Charleston School District on Facebook. Our website is found at: <http://tigers.wsc.k12.ar.us/>

More Information

- Who can I talk to if I have more questions? We anticipate information will change as guidelines for schools are revised by the State of Arkansas, Arkansas Department of Health, and/or CDC.

We respectfully request your patience as we strive to meet the educational needs of each student. We also encourage parents and guardians with concerns and questions to call us at one of the office numbers listed below:

Charleston School District, 479-965-7160

Charleston High School, 479-965-7150

Charleston Middle School, 479-965-7170

Charleston Elementary School, 479-965-2460

