

PARADISE UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT
2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR
RESPONSE TO COVID-19 PLAN



Every Student Matters. Every Moment Counts.

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT GUIDANCE AND DIRECTIVES ARE RAPIDLY CHANGING.
AS THESE CHANGE, SO MAY OUR PLANS.

Priorities for Returning to School



Safety of
Students and Staff



Social Emotional
wellbeing of
Students and Staff



High Levels of
Learning for all
Students

PUSD Options to Return for the 2021-2022 Year



FACE TO FACE LEARNING FULL DAY INSTRUCTION

Cedarwood, Pine Ridge, Paradise Ridge (TK-6 Grade)

Start Date: August 11, 2021

Cedarwood: 8:00 a.m. – 2:10 p.m.

Pine Ridge: 7:55 a.m. – 2:05 p.m.

Paradise Ridge: 8:25 – 2:32

Paradise Junior High School

Start Date: August 11, 2021

8:30 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Paradise High School and E-Learning*

Start Date: August 11, 2021

8:20 a.m. – 3:12 p.m.

Ridgeview High School (10th – 12th Grade)

Start Date: August 11, 2021

8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Independent Study

Start Date: August 11, 2021

- Schedules will be determined between teachers and families

All schedules are subject to minor changes based on transportation needs.

Letter from the Superintendent

Dear Students, Parents and Guardians, and Community

I want to start off by saying good job and well done to everyone. Amazing things were accomplished this past school year. As we are about to begin the new school year I am very excited to get started. The most exciting thing to me is the opportunity to offer in-person learning all day, to all students. On top of that our students will be coming back to new fields and playgrounds, and for some even new classes. We are also prepared to offer intervention during the school day as well as outside the regular school day. Students will be supported at a level we have never seen before. Also, as a result of funding due to COVID-19 our teacher to student ratio will be lower than it ever has been in the past. This means smaller classrooms averages, more individual time with each student, and the ability to even better address the social emotional and academic needs of all students.



As we return to school on August 11, 2021 we will be following the guidelines laid out for us by Center of Disease Control, California Department of Public Health, California Department of Education, OSHA, and the Governor. At this time, I am happy to say we are no longer required to have mask outdoors. Therefore, students and staff will be having many opportunities to not wear masks throughout the day. I also anticipate many teachers increasing their amount of outdoor class time. As we move forward I will watch for any changes so that we can adjust and if the opportunity arises.

If you have not had the time, I encourage you to take a drive around and see what is in store for your students. The new gym, softball field, and tennis courts are all very near completion. Ridgeview has a good portion of the ground work completed and we should start seeing forms going up in the next month. At PHS the old Administration building will be coming down to prepare for the new 31,000 square foot building that will include 19 classrooms and the offices. PRES will be moving to their modernized/new site on Pentz Road. Pine Ridge and Cedarwood have both added amazing playgrounds and updated their ADA and path of travels throughout the campus. All sites will also be getting generators that will run the entire school, therefore, eliminating the need to cancel school during PSPS days.

I am also proud to say that we are returning with the experienced staff that is second to none. For those students that prefer, you can opt out and do independent study.

All in all, I think we are set for a spectacular year!

If you have further questions, please feel free to contact our district office or your child's school site.

Thank you

Tom Taylor, Superintendent

Our Mission

The mission of Paradise Unified School District, as the educational leader of the community, is to graduate knowledgeable, productive, responsible citizens who are motivated to continue learning and are able to function successfully, with integrity, in a complex, changing world.

Our Goals

The district's specific goals are created with participation and input from business and community members, parents, teachers, staff member and administrators. These goals are then revised periodically to best reflect the community's needs and desires for its school district.



Our community's goals for education are:

- Graduate 100% of our students by providing multiple pathways to meet graduation requirements
- All students competent in basic skills
- Technology skills for all students and staff in well-equipped, interconnected schools
- Character education for all students and competence in interpersonal skills
- Educational programs to meet the individual needs of all students
- Partnerships with home for academic learning and student conduct
- Reciprocal partnerships with the community in which our schools are community learning centers
- Disciplined, safe, alcohol- and drug-free schools
- Provide for smaller schools and class sizes
- Professional development for staff

Guiding Principles for 2021-2022

- Keeping students at the center of our focus
- Address the safety and health of all students and staff.
- Address the impact of safety guidelines on student learning and well-being.
- Address and, to the extent possible, minimize impact on families by utilizing guiding documents from the federal, state, county, and public health agencies.



What Students, Staff and Families Can Expect

Safety Measures for k-12 Schools from CDPH

- 1) Masks
 - a. Masks are optional outdoors for all in K-12 school settings.
 - b. K-12 students are required to mask indoors, with exemptions per [CDPH face mask guidance](#). Adults in K-12 school settings are required to mask when sharing indoor spaces with students.
 - c. Persons exempted from wearing a face covering due to a medical condition, 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.
 - d. Schools must develop protocols to provide a face covering to students who inadvertently fail to bring a face covering to school to prevent unnecessary exclusions.
 - e. Schools should offer alternative educational opportunities for students who are excluded from campus because they will not wear a face covering.
 - g. In limited situations where a face covering cannot be used for pedagogical or developmental reasons, (e.g., communicating or assisting young children or those with special needs) a face shield with a drape (per CDPH guidelines) can be used instead of a face covering while in the classroom as long as the wearer maintains physical distance from others.

- 2) Physical distancing
 - a. Recent evidence indicates that in-person instruction can occur safely without minimum physical distancing requirements when other mitigation strategies (e.g., masking) are implemented. This is consistent with [CDC K-12 School Guidance](#).

- 3) Ventilation recommendations:
 - a. For indoor spaces, ventilation should be optimized

- 4) Recommendations for staying home when sick and getting tested:
 - a. Follow the strategy for Staying Home when Sick and Getting Tested from the [CDC](#).
 - b. Get tested for COVID-19 when symptoms are [consistent with COVID-19](#) will help with rapid contact tracing and prevent possible spread at schools.

- c. Staff members and students with symptoms of COVID-19 infection are not to return for in-person instruction until they have met CDPH criteria to return to school for those with symptoms:
 - i. At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; and
 - ii. Other symptoms have improved; and
 - iii. They have a negative test for SARS-CoV-2, OR a healthcare provider has provided documentation that the symptoms are typical of their underlying chronic condition (e.g., allergies or asthma) OR a healthcare provider has confirmed an alternative named diagnosis (e.g., Streptococcal pharyngitis, Coxsackie virus), OR at least 10 days have passed since symptom onset.
- 5) Screening testing recommendations:
 - a. CDPH has a robust State- and Federally-funded school testing program and subject matter experts available to support school decision making, including free testing resources to support screening testing programs (software, test kits, shipping, testing, etc.).
 - i. Resources for schools interested in testing include: California's Testing Task Force [K-12 Schools Testing Program](#) and K-12 school-based COVID-19 testing strategies; The Safe Schools for [All state technical assistance \(TA\)](#) portal; and the [CDC K-12 School Guidance](#) screening testing considerations (in Section 1.4 and Appendix 2) that are specific to the school setting.
- 6) Case reporting, contact tracing and investigation
 - a. Per AB 86 (2021) and California Code Title 17, section 2500, schools are **required** to report COVID-19 cases to the local public health department.
 - b. Schools or LEAs should have a COVID-19 liaison to assist the local health department with contact tracing and investigation.
- 7) Quarantine recommendations for vaccinated close contacts
 - a. For those who are vaccinated, follow the [CDPH Fully Vaccinated People Guidance](#) regarding quarantine.
- 8) Quarantine recommendations for unvaccinated students for exposures when both parties were wearing a mask, as required in K-12 indoor settings. These are adapted from the [CDC K-12 guidance](#) and [CDC definition of a close contact](#).
 - a. When both parties were wearing a mask in the indoor classroom setting, unvaccinated students who are close contacts (more than 15 minutes over a 24-hour period within 0-6 feet indoors) may undergo a modified 10-day quarantine as follows. They **may continue to attend school for in-person instruction** if they:
 - i. Are asymptomatic;

- ii. Continue to appropriately mask, as required;
 - iii. Undergo at least twice weekly testing during the 10-day quarantine; and
 - iv. Continue to quarantine for all extracurricular activities at school, including sports, and activities within the community setting.

- 9) Quarantine recommendations for: unvaccinated [close contacts](#) who were not wearing masks or for whom the infected individual was not wearing a mask during the indoor exposure; or unvaccinated students as described in #8 above.
 - a. For these contacts, those who remain asymptomatic, meaning they have NOT had any symptoms, may discontinue self-quarantine under the following conditions:
 - i. Quarantine can end after Day 10 from the date of last exposure without testing; OR
 - ii. Quarantine can end after Day 7 if a diagnostic specimen is collected after Day 5 from the date of last exposure and tests negative.
 - b. To discontinue quarantine before 14 days following last known exposure, asymptomatic close contacts must:
 - i. Continue daily self-monitoring for symptoms through Day 14 from last known exposure; AND
 - ii. Follow all recommended non-pharmaceutical interventions (e.g., wearing a mask when around others, hand washing, avoiding crowds) through Day 14 from last known exposure.
 - c. If any symptoms develop during this 14-day period, the exposed person must immediately isolate, get tested and contact their healthcare provider with any questions regarding their care.

- 10) Isolation recommendations
 - a. For both vaccinated and unvaccinated persons, follow the CDPH [Isolation Guidance](#) for those diagnosed with COVID-19.

- 11) Follow hand hygiene recommendations
 - a. Teach and reinforce washing hands, avoiding contact with one's eyes, nose, and mouth, and covering coughs and sneezes among students and staff.
 - b. Promote hand washing throughout the day, especially before and after eating, after using the toilet, and after handling garbage, or removing gloves.
 - c. Ensure adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors, including soap, tissues, no-touch trashcans, face coverings, and hand sanitizers with at least 60 percent ethyl alcohol for staff and children who can safely use hand sanitizer.

- 12) Cleaning recommendations and protocol
 - a. Cleaning once a day to sufficiently remove potential virus that may be on surfaces. Disinfecting (using disinfectants on the [U.S. Environmental](#)

[Protection Agency COVID-19](#) list) removes any remaining germs on surfaces, which further reduces any risk of spreading infection.

b. Clean High-Touch Surfaces

Clean high-touch surfaces at least once a day or as often as determined is necessary. Examples of high-touch surfaces include: pens, counters, shopping carts, tables, doorknobs, light switches, handles, stair rails, elevator buttons, desks, keyboards, phones, toilets, faucets, and sinks.

[Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility.](#)

c. If a facility has had a sick person with COVID-19 within the last 24 hours, clean AND disinfect the spaces occupied by that person during that time.

Visitors

Schools should limit nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations with people who are not fully vaccinated, particularly in areas where there is moderate-to-high COVID-19 community transmission.

Schools should not limit access for [direct service providers](#), but can ensure compliance with school visitor policies.

Schools should continue to emphasize the importance of staying home when sick. Anyone, including visitors, who have symptoms of infectious illness, such as flu or [COVID-19](#), should stay home and seek testing and care.

Ventilation

Improving ventilation is an important COVID-19 prevention strategy that can reduce the number of virus particles in the air. Along with [other preventive strategies](#), including wearing a well-fitting, multi-layered mask, bringing fresh outdoor air into a building helps keep virus particles from concentrating inside. This can be done by opening multiple doors and windows, using child-safe fans to increase the effectiveness of open windows, and making changes to the HVAC or air filtration systems.

During transportation, open or crack windows in buses and other forms of transportation, if doing so does not pose a safety risk. Keeping windows open a few inches improves air circulation.

Communication Plans

Post all plans on social media

Families will be provided education and information on social distancing, use of face coverings, screening, and symptom identification

Post safety expectations on social media

Track and communicate via the dashboard all COVID-19 school related cases

Transportation

During school transportation: [CDC's Order](#) applies to all public transportation conveyances including school buses. Regardless of the mask policy at school, passengers and drivers must wear a mask on school buses, including on buses operated by public and private school systems, subject to the exclusions and exemptions in CDC's Order. Learn more [here](#). For example, if a student attends a school where mask use is not required due to vaccination status (e.g., a high school with a high rate of vaccination), the student is still required to wear a mask on the school bus.

Schools should provide masks to those students who need them (including on buses), such as students who forgot to bring their mask or whose families are unable to afford them. No disciplinary action should be taken against a student who does not have a mask as described in the U.S. Department of Education [COVID-19 Handbook, Volume I external icon](#).

Food Services

Food Service is able to provide all students with a Breakfast and Lunch at no charge every day, all year.

Maximize physical distance as much as possible when moving through the food service line and while eating (especially indoors). Using additional spaces outside of the cafeteria for mealtime seating such as the gymnasium or outdoor seating can help facilitate distancing. Note: students, teachers, and staff who are fully vaccinated do not need to distance while eating.

Given very low risk of transmission from surfaces and shared objects, there is no need to limit food service approaches to single use items and packaged meals.

Clean frequently touched surfaces. Surfaces that come in contact with food should be washed, rinsed, and sanitized before and after meals.



Promote hand washing before, after, and during shifts, before and after eating, after using the toilet, and after handling garbage, dirty dishes, or removing gloves.

Improve ventilation in food preparation, service, and seating areas.

Student and Staff

Mental Health and Wellness

For our students in Paradise it is critical that we continue to the work to provide services for our students and staff. We know that some students and staff will experience fear and anxiety because of COVID. We continue to be committed to supporting student and staff social-emotional wellness and offering resources to ensure students transition back to school smoothly. Supports include the following



- Crisis Counseling
- Butte County Office of Education Counselor
- Youth for Change Counselors
- Screenings for students so that we may recognize need
- KELVIN- An Aeries based program that allows communication and outreach to students
- SAHSMA – A grant to assist in providing students support and education regarding substance abuse
- RULER – Social Emotional Learning Curriculum to assist teachers in providing SEL lessons
- Mindful Littles – Teaches strategies to our students that build resilience
- Training for staff
 - Dr. Bruce Perry – Trauma Informed Practice
 - Capturing Kids Hearts – Relationship Building
 - Mindful Littles – Resiliency Strategies
- PBIS Practices at each site
- SEL Practices at each site
- TRSS Committee

We recognize that our entire community is still in the recovery mode from the Camp Fire. It is vital that we continue to communicate with our students so that we may provide them with support. The current programs we provide assist the staff in identifying students who may be at risk. Once we know that a student could be at risk, we can provide them with the supports they need. At the same time, we realize that many students may feel they do not need support. We feel it

is important to still provide strategies that assist all students in dealing with trauma. Our classroom programs are aimed to do just that.