

Springside Elementary Return to Learn Information: August 8, 2020

Dear Parents:

Springside is anxious to welcome students to school this fall. Whether your student is returning face to face, or will be participating online, we are excited to begin school together. Thank you for your patience as we gather enrollment information and develop plans to open school. Here is important information you will need as we prepare to start school on August 18:

You can find detailed information about Alpine School District's Return to Learn plan at their website, <https://alpineschools.org/returntolearn/>. There is helpful Q&A, as well as information about school options, precautions and procedures.

Calendar items:

August 11: Class placements available online through Skyward (after 5 p.m.)

August 14-17: Virtual Back to School Tour/Teacher Introductions (Available on school website)

August 18: First day of school for 1st-6th grade students (in-person and online)

August 18-24: Kindergarten Assessments (look for information about scheduling a 30-minute appointment to meet your child's kindergarten teacher to complete an assessment)

August 25: First Day of Kindergarten (in-person and online)

Back to School Virtual Tour/Teacher Introductions (August 14-17)

We will not be holding an in-person Back to School event this fall. Teachers will post a welcome video to our website to introduce themselves to students. There will also be a menu of videos to give students instructions on procedures before school, dismissal, lunch, recess, etc. These videos will become available by Friday evening, August 14. Parents of students who would like an actual meeting, can arrange directly with their child's teacher for a brief, scheduled appointment or virtual meeting during the week before school. We request that only the student and a parent attend. Please do not bring the whole family.

Thank you to our Springside families for declaring your school option for the first trimester.

Alpine Online K-8 program Option:

Students who selected this option should have been contacted by the Alpine Online program and will need to register as a student through this home-school program.

School Based Online Option:

Students who selected the school-based online option will be assigned to one of our classes at Springside. Students will receive instructional materials from their teacher daily. These materials are developed by Alpine School District. Your child will connect with their teacher weekly to receive additional instruction/intervention that may be needed. Your child's teacher will give grades and review assessments, as well as communicating with parents. Look for more specific information to come from your child's teacher.

In Person, Face-to-Face Option:

Please see the information below for information about returning to school in person, and for those who may visit our school for any reason.

In-Person School Schedule Monday-Friday:

Early Track Students:

8:00 AM – 1:15 PM

Later Track Students:

9:15 AM – 2:30 PM

AM Kindergarten

9:15 AM – 11:30 AM

PM Kindergarten

12:15 PM – 2:30 PM

COVID 19 Precautions:

We are happy to have students returning to school, and everyone will be working to keep them safe, healthy, and continuing to attend. We also want the teachers and support personnel at Springside to remain safe and healthy. The only way we are allowed to return and remain in school, is by following state and health department guidelines and requirements. Everyone at Springside has a personal story that may put them and their family more or less at risk for COVID 19 infection. Thank you for considering all of these risk factors, and working together as a school community to keep our students, staff, and their families healthy. Springside will follow state and district plans for the health and safety of our school.

Wellness Checks:

Parents are asked to do a wellness check for their student daily, and for themselves if visiting the school. Please do not send your child to school if they exhibit any symptoms of illness. If your child has a fever, cough, chills, sore throat, congestion, headache, nausea, fatigue, muscle aches, loss of taste or smell, or has been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID 19 in the last two weeks, do not come to school. Children who exhibit symptoms at school will stay in a quarantine area in the office and be sent home. As always, we ask that children with symptoms of any illness stay home to avoid spreading infection to others.

Masks and Face Coverings:

All individuals at the school will be required to wear a face covering. This includes students, employees, parents, and all visitors. Masks or face shields are acceptable face coverings. We ask that individuals bring their own mask and put it on prior to entering the building. The school can provide a mask if you do not have one.

Please find a mask your child is comfortable with. Practice putting it on, taking it off, and wearing it for extended periods of time BEFORE the first day of school.

There may be times when students can remove their mask, based on the activity and social distancing guidelines. Teachers will help your child understand when this is allowed. This will include during outdoor recess activities, PE activities, and while eating lunch. Students may also choose to continue wearing a mask during these activities if they want to.

Every child will receive a lanyard that can be left at school daily. The lanyard allows a place to clip and keep their mask when it is not being worn.

Frequent Hand-Washing/Hand-Sanitizing:

Hand sanitizer dispensers are available in every classroom and throughout the school. Teachers will develop hand washing and sanitizing routines in their classrooms. Everyone should sanitize or wash hands frequently.

Social Distancing:

Classrooms will be set up to encourage social distancing. Student desks will face forward and be spaced throughout the classroom as possible. Students may not be able to maintain a 6-foot distance in many instances throughout the day, yet should honor healthy space and avoid direct physical contact with others.

Touch Point Cleaning:

Our custodial staff, as well as teachers and staff will ensure regular and frequent cleaning of touch points throughout the school. Your child may be asked to be a part of this, especially taking responsibility for their personal area.

Lunch:

School lunch and breakfast will be served daily. Students may also bring their own lunch from home. School meals will be a simplified grab-and-go tray that will follow a menu with a variety of items. We ask that parents consider simplifying their student's home lunches, as the time available to eat has been compressed.

*PLEASE NOTE: Students are asked to eat their own lunch and NOT to exchange or offer lunch items to classmates. Please reinforce this expectation with your child.

This year students will eat lunch before recess, and only one grade at a time will occupy the lunchroom or the playground. Tables will be marked with spaced seating and we will use both gyms to provide additional spacing. Students will eat outside on the lawn area north of the school whenever the weather allows.

Due to social distancing space constraints and to limit visitors, parents will not be allowed to visit their child during lunch this year. You may check your child out of school during lunch if you'd like to schedule a lunch date.

*Online students will be able to purchase and pick up a school lunch at a designated time daily. Look for more information to follow.

Recess:

Students will have one 15-20 minute recess daily after lunch. Only one grade level at a time will share the play area to promote increased social distancing. Students will not be required to wear face coverings during outdoor recess. Teachers can provide an additional break with their own class each day so students can go outside or have another activity. Students will be asked to put on their mask on their way to recess and when they line up to return to the building.

Student Materials:

Students will have their own personal materials, such as pencils, crayons, scissors. These will be provided by the school. Each child will have a pencil box or pencil pouch. Your child's teacher

will give you more information about what items students will use if you would like to bring your own materials.

EVERY CHILD should bring the following personal items clearly LABELED FOR THEIR PERSONAL USE:

Face Covering (Mask or Face Shield)

Personal Headphones (to be left at school)

Water Bottle (not disposable)

*Items will be used during the regular school day. they may be brought from home on a voluntary basis, otherwise, they will be furnished by the school. **The school has enough cloth face masks for every child. We will distribute these throughout the year as needs arise. If you need a facemask for your child before the first day of school, please arrange to get one from the school office. If you do not have headphones, we will issue a pair for your student to keep and use all year.***

Buses:

All students will be required to wear a mask while riding on school buses. Please make sure your child has a mask to wear when they board the bus on the first day of school. Assigned seating will be used on all buses. Drivers will sanitize buses regularly and frequently.

Student Drop-off and Pick-up:

Please pull completely forward and be brief in the drop-off and pick-up areas of the school. Verify that your student has their face-covering. Students who walk through the building should put on their face covering before they enter. Please **DO NOT** drop off students in the bus drop off area behind the school, even if buses are not present.

Students will be dismissed from school class by class in order to avoid a mass exit. This means your child might not exit the school at the same time as other children. Please be patient. We request that students continue to wear their face coverings after school is dismissed, as social distancing may not be possible until they are beyond the school grounds. Please talk to your child about your expectations for this.

Student check-out:

Springside will be using a secure entry system daily beginning this year. Parents will be required to “buzz in” to the office. To minimize the number of people coming into the office, and to eliminate using a keyboard for student checkout, you will be able to fill out a remote check-out form with your phone and let us know when you arrive by coming into the office vestibule. You can show your ID with our secure camera, and we will send your student out to meet you outside the school or in your vehicle. You are also welcome to come into the office and check-out if this is your preference. You will be required to wear a mask inside the school. Please be patient as we experiment with this new procedure.

Late Arrival:

Students who are more than 5 minutes late to school must check in at the office. Parents are not required to come into the office. You can send a note with your child or use the remote check-in.

Volunteers and Visitors at School:

State guidelines suggest limiting the number of individuals at school daily. This year we will not allow unscheduled visitors in classrooms. For now, volunteers will be limited to one per classroom at a time, and only when scheduled in advance by the teacher for a specific purpose. Only the volunteer individual will be allowed at school. Additional preschool or infant children will not be able to come with the volunteer. Thank you for understanding this change as we work to protect student health and limit interactions. Volunteers will be asked to verify that they have no symptoms or exposure to COVID 19 during the last two weeks prior to being allowed at school. All volunteers must wear a mask.

Holidays, Celebrations and Parties:

School should be fun and enjoyable. We plan to hold celebrations throughout the year, though these may look different depending on the current circumstance. For now, we will not be holding large gatherings for holidays or other events. Celebrations will be evaluated as they approach. PTA Room Parents will still be asked to assist with arrangements for parties, but celebrations will be limited and may take place over a period of days, rather than all at once. We will explore available options as the year progresses, based upon student health and safety.

Library Books:

Please look for more information from our Media Center Specialist. Students will have options available for checking out library materials, though we will not have class groups in the library.

Specialty Classes:

Art and Music classes will be held in student classrooms as we begin the year. The teacher will move from room to room for longer sessions with transition time between. This will facilitate time to sanitize and prep materials, and limit students moving from room to room. Because the gym will be used for lunch for much of the day, PE will be held outside when possible, as well as in classrooms or in the portable behind the school. Computer class will continue to be held in the computer lab, and will be sanitized between classes.

Thank you for trusting us with your children as they Return to Learn at Springside. Please recognize that these plans are fluid and may change along the way. We will continue to work to provide quality instruction as students acquire necessary knowledge, skills, and dispositions at school. Your input is welcome and invited. Please share questions or concerns so that we can share the most accurate information possible for your family and all families at our Springside.

Finally, amongst all the preparation, anxiety, and concern about restarting school, please know how much we are looking forward to seeing every student. We have missed them, and we are ready for them to come back. Thank you for the great positive and kind words you have offered to teachers since we left our school buildings last March. It has been a long break, and we are grateful for the opportunity to teach your children again. We love them, and we know how important they are to you. That's why we're back. Please help us continue to teach them by keeping all of Springside healthy and safe as we Return to Learn.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1HKs2Zw4-28-FOTTY-49mTxmR0tw0_MCzTm-lbPmopRo/edit?usp=sharing