

Spud Academy Information Session



Return to Learn I Moorhead Area Public Schools

Safety

Goals

Flexibility

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Equity

The health and safety of our students and staff is our top priority. Our plans are based on guidance from the CDC, State Health and Education Departments. Our primary goal is to do what we do best--teaching and learning face to face. However, plans are fluid to allow for movement between models based on necessity. Excellence results from opportunity. We seek to provide students with the resources they need to thrive in every learning model. We are committed to ensure that every student receives the quality education they need and deserve.

Community

We all have different situations and opinions as it relates to the challenges of the pandemic. We commit to valuing our Spud community and treating each other with grace and respect. We remain stronger, smarter and safer together.

Our Partnership

Return to Learn I Moorhead Area Public Schools



ALONE WE CAN DO SO LITTLE; TOGETHER WE CAN DO SO MUCH.

HELEN KELLER

Our Partnership MN Dept. of Education & Health

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

STAY SAFEMN

2020-2021 Planning Guide for Schools

HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS FOR NAVIGATING COVID-19

Reopening of school is critical during the COVID-19 pandemic, when many children and families are experiencing additional economic hardships, social isolation, and other stressors. Schools are a critical component of communities and have tremendous impact on the health, well-being, growth, and development of students and families. Education is a fundamental determinant of health because it cultivates life skills, knowledge and reasoning, social-emotional awareness and control, and community engagement, which serve people over the course of a lifetime. Schools themselves also function as tools and resources for public health intervention by addressing core needs such as nutrition, access to healt and social support services, and engagement and support of families and the community as a whole.

The spring of 2020 brought about unprecedented changes to our society and our education system. As we look forward to the 2020-21 school year in our pre-kindergarten (nee-K) through grade 12 schools we anticipate that SARS-CoV-2 - the virus that causes COVID-19 - will continue to circulate. Students teachers, and other school staff will be at risk for transmitting and acquiring infection. It is important that everyone in the school community take steps to reduce transmission, particularly to those at high risk, while balancing the need to maintain a strong education system that effectively supports staff, students, and communities

We developed this document to provide pre-K through grade 12 (K-12) school leaders guidance around policies practices and strategies that districts and schools must implement and recommendations they should consider to optimize education and promote health and safety, while mitigating risk throughout the school year. Use this guidance document in combination with the additional guidance provided by the Minnesota Department of Education, which includes both strategies for implementation of health guidance in schools, as well as other non-health related considerations for the 2020-21 school year. Additional guidance will be published as the COVID-19 response evolves throughout the summer and into the fall

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Safe Learning Plan for 2020-21 A Localized, Data-Driven Approach

Introduction

July 30, 2020

Spring 2020 brought unprecedented changes to society and our education system. Following two months of statewide distance learning, Minnesota public schools have spent summer 2020 developing contingency plans for the 2020-21 school year, based on suidance from the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) and public health guidelines from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), During this time, MDE has made significant public engagement efforts to understand how we can better serve all Minnesota students and families, while protecting the health and safety of our school communities.

GUIDANCE FOR MINNESOTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

This document explains the Safe Learning Plan for the 2020-21 School Year and outlines resources and supports that are available to school districts and charter schools for the upcoming school year.

While represented school buildings for in-person instruction is what we want for our students, the main priority must continue to be the health, safety, and wellness of our students, staff, and community

Minnesota is the best state in the country for children to grow up in - those of all races ethnicities religions economic statuses, gender identities, sexual

orientations, (dis)abilities, and ZIP codes, Purpose

Vision

Safe Learning Plan

Ensure that every student in the state of Minnesota receives an equitable education and has equal access to learning and instruction during the COVID-19 pandemic

Safe Learning Plan Goals

- 1 Prioritize the safety of students and staff 2. Prioritize in-person learning, especially for
- vounger learners 3. Consider infectiousness and transmission risk among different ages
- 4. Support planning, while permitting flexibility for districts
- 5. Take into account disease prevalence at a local



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STAY SAFE

2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR PLANNING

2020-21 Planning Guidance for

GUIDANCE FOR MINNESOTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS:

Minnesota Public Schools hely 30, 2020

Introduction

Spring 2020 brought unprecedented changes to society and our education system. As we plan for the 2020-21 school year, the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) is working with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic and determine how to keep our students, families and staff healthy and safe. We have developed guidance for three scenarios for the school year, detailed in this document. School districts and charter schools should plan for all three scenarios based on MDH planning ruidance, so our schools can be ready for whatever th

public health situation may require. Schools should offer distance learning to enrolled students who may be medically vulnerable or otherwise unable or unwilling to return to in-person or hybrid learning.

Minnesota is the best state in the country for children to grow up in - those of all races, athnicities, religions, economic statuses, gender identities, sexual orientations, (dis)abilities, and zip codes.

Ensure that every student in the state of Minnesota receives an equitable education and has equal access to learning and instruction during the COVID-19 pandemic

Planning Guidance

Include voices from communities who will be most impacted Minnesota does best when state agencies and community partners collaborate to achieve commo scale. We will solve problems in education, health care environment and energy, housing, jobs, transportation and so much more by focusing on these key priorities Children and Families Equity and Inclusion

STAY SAFE

Thriving Communities

 Fiscal Accountability and Measurable Results Minnesota's Emironment

Purpose

Guiding Principles

Interests

Practice servant leadership

· Treat everyone with respect and dignity

· Ask how your actions are reinforcing or

removing structural inequity

· Do the right thing, especially when it is difficult

· Promote the common good over narrow specia

· Be accessible, transparent, and accountable



Learning Models

Learning Models

Return to Learn I Moorhead Area Public Schools







- Students attend school every day with normal classroom settings, following additional safety precautions including face coverings.
- Schools will create as much space between students as feasible, but will not be held strictly to 6 feet of social distancing.

Hybrid 10-19 cases: Secondary; 20-29 cases: Everyone 30 - 49 cases: Elementary

- Students attend school with a modified schedule.
- School work is completed through an in-person and distance learning platform.
- Students schedules limit the amount of students moving throughout the building during the day.
- Reduced class and bus sizes.

Distance 30-49 cases: Secondary; 50+ cases: Everyone

- All academic work is completed at home.
- Instruction includes daily reciprocal interaction with teacher.
- Structured daily class schedule.
- Daily attendance would be required.
- Engaged in synchronous (real-time) and asynchronous (flexible) learning activities.

Spud Academy

Distance learning, per semester, option for families to enroll in. Separate program from state-delegated plans. Determined by parent choice.



Spud Academy Basics

Spud Academy

Option to choose exclusively Distance Learning on a semester basis.



- Students are provided a a school issued Chromebook.
- Will require a semester long commitment. Student will remain enrolled in Spud Academy regardless of what Learning Model everyone else is in.
- Dedicated teachers and consistent learning groups.
- Daily, online interaction with teacher and peers.
- Structured daily class schedule.
- Daily attendance and participation required.
- Academic rigor equal to in-person learning.
- Meet all grade level standards and MN graduation standards.
- Depending on student(s) age, will require parent attention.

Technology

Return to Learn I Moorhead Area Public Schools

DEVICE AVAILABILITY

 Devices will be assigned to all K-12 students enrolled in SPUD Academy

BROADBAND AVAILABILITY

- Low cost lifeline broadband internet access is available for qualifying households from Midco, Sparklight or 702 Communications at a cost of \$6 to \$10 per month.
- NOTE: This district will work with families to ensure students have internet access offsite.

HELP DESK AND SERVICE

 Technical Support is available at 218-284-3340 from 7:00 am to 3:30 pm Monday through Friday

Mental & Social-Emotional Health

Return to Learn I Moorhead Area Public Schools



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RETURN







Why would I choose the Spud Academy as my student's option?



Choosing to enroll in the Spud Academy guarantees you will not be required to transition from one scenario to another. A student in the Spud Academy will remain in the Spud Academy for the fall semester of the 2020-21 school year until January 22. Changes may only take place at semester breaks.





The Spud Academy start date will be the same as the district start date, September 8, 2020.



How will my student have access to the Spud Academy?



Spud Academy is a one-to-one device environment. Each student will be provided a Chromebook and AC power charger. Families needing a WiFi hotspot can request one after the enrollment period is completed. When at all possible, families are encouraged to utilize their home Internet and WiFi.



After I register my child in Spud Academy, what are the next steps?



As information is finalized in preparation for the start of virtual instruction on Tuesday, September 8, 2020, families will receive updated guidance from Spud Academy personnel.

Information on device pick-up and registration into virtual classrooms will be communicated to families.



Can I change my child's enrollment into the Spud Academy to in-person at the home campus before the first day of school on Tuesday, September 8, 2020?



For staffing purposes, we ask once a family registers for the Spud Academy their commitment remains unless there are unusual circumstances. The change can be accommodated if your decision to elect in-person instruction at the home campus is made by midnight on Friday, August 14, 2020. Your request to revoke your child's Spud Academy enrollment and request in-person instruction at the home campus may be emailed to spudacademy@moorheadschools.org.



If my Spud Academy enrolled child elects to return to in-person instruction at the end of first semester, will my child have the same teachers when he/she returns?



Staffing of the Spud Academy teachers is not campus specific. There is no guarantee that if your child returns to in-person instruction at their home campus that they will have the same teacher(s). Students who elect to leave in-person instruction at the end of first semester and enroll in the Spud Academy may not have the same teachers as provided during in-person instruction.



Will there be a Spud Academy back to school session?



MAPS teachers will make contact with their Spud Academy students and families prior to the first day of school. We anticipate the Spud Academy teachers using technology to meet students and parents/guardians. Options may be able to meet in a social-distanced setting for those who are able and seek to meet in an in-person option.



Can Spud Academy students attend classes in person at their home campus during the instructional school day?



No, students must select the current district plan or the Spud Academy.



Will grading guidelines be different for Spud Academy instruction vs. district designated instruction?



No, the grading guidelines for Spud Academy will match the district's policies for in-person or hybrid instruction.

Spud Academy follows the grading principles and practices put forward by Moorhead Area Public Schools.



Instruction & Curriculum

What does the Spud Academy instruction and learning format include?



Spud Academy virtual instruction will be available for students in Kindergarten through grade 12. There will be a blend of both synchronous and asynchronous learning. Synchronous Instruction is two-way, real-time/live, virtual instruction between teachers and students when students are not on campus. Asynchronous Instruction does not require having the instructor and student engaged at the same time. Teachers will teach virtually using best practices in online learning. Students will receive direct instruction from their teacher and will have the opportunity to access their teachers daily.

Spud Academy will not be able to serve Pre-K or Spanish Immersion students at this time.



Will the Spud Academy virtual instructional day include live, teacher-led instruction for the full length of the school day?



The Spud Academy instructional day will include a blend of both synchronous, real-time, live instruction between teachers and students online, as well as asynchronous learning, which is instruction that does not require the teacher and student to be engaged at the same time. Learning opportunities will be on a daily schedule. Instruction will be based on the grade/course state standards.





Yes, courses in the Spud Academy will address the same state standards as the district directed in-person, hybrid or distance learning learning models.



Will students be able to take the same courses as students in the hybrid school?



While core courses and elective options will be available, some school-based elective courses will not be available as they require additional equipment or materials. Day to day instruction may vary, but all work is based in the Minnesota State Education Standards.





K-5 students will have access to the same courses as the traditional elementaries. Middle school and High school course offerings are being determined at this time and will be shared as soon as possible.





Yes, the necessary coursework will be available for students to stay on track for graduation following the Minnesota state graduation standards.



Will advanced placement courses (AP) be offered for students enrolled in Spud Academy?



We are looking at options that will allow us to offer AP courses for registered high school students in a virtual format.







Will parents be provided resources to support their child's virtual learning in Spud Academy?



Students will have access to digital and physical resources. Students should follow the instructions for logging into the Spud Academy digital resources. Also, your child's Spud Academy teacher will be able to assist.



Will Spud Academy enrolled students have access to instructional materials such as textbooks, library books, school provided supplies, etc.?



Yes. Spud Academy enrolled students will be provided all course related instructional materials for each class.



Will Spud Academy enrolled students receive special education services? And, how will IEP meetings be held?



Yes, Spud Academy students will receive special education services as outlined in their schedule of services by their IEP. Instructional supports such as in-class support, resource classes, accommodations and modifications will be provided in Spud Academy by special education professionals. IEPs for Spud Academy students will be held virtually through video conferencing.



What about Spud Academy students and receiving their specific related services?



Spud Academy students will receive all services determined by their Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or 504. Most related services such as psychological services and other therapies will be provided virtually; however, certain services may require students to access a Spud campus or facility. Spud Academy cannot provide every accommodation/modification that may be needed. If parents choose the Spud Academy and the student is not being provided Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE), the IEP team must meet to discuss educational placement.



Will school support services, such as EL and intervention related services be available to students?



Yes, school support services will be available to students, including EL and Special Education services as well as counseling services and other interventions as needed.



How will my student make connections to other students and adults?



The social emotional needs of students are an important component of any district schooling model. Activities, virtual student connections and individual teacher check-ins will be part of the instructional program.







What will the attendance policy be for the Spud Academy and how will attendance be taken?



Students attending Spud Academy will have the same daily and period attendance requirements as those choosing district directed instruction; although, students and teachers will engage virtually.

Teachers will take and post attendance in PowerSchool. Students' attendance is the combination of being logged into synchronous sessions and completing assigned tasks associated with a course.







Can Spud Academy students enrolled in secondary asynchronous courses attend scheduled practices and events before the start and at the end of the school day?



Spud Academy students may report to their home campus for before school and after school practices, competitions and performances as allowed. Spud Academy students will remain enrolled with their campus co-curricular/extracurricular activities. Transportation will not be provided for co-curricular/extra curricular practices or local events/activities. Spud Academy students are eligible for transportation when attending an away event with their co-curricular/extracurricular program participants.

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Next Steps Register by August 14.

Registration Link

Questions?

https://moorhead.powerschool.com

SpudAcademy@moorheadschools.org

