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Secondary Schools Smart Start Summary 20–21

Updated details 8.8.2020

Greetings Vikings! Our administrative team, with input from staff and community stakeholders as well as guidance from the CDC, Dept of Education, and DHSS, have diligently planned throughout the summer to create a safe and enriching academic experience for each and every student. School, amongst many other components of our lives, will not look as it did prior to this pandemic. Therefore, Petersburg School District has surveyed our staff, our community members, held multiple parent meetings, met with groups of teachers, attended summer training sessions, and continues to receive input from our local medical center, Borough leadership and state experts to create these draft plans for the upcoming school year. We recognize that safe and healthy for our children is defined not only by their physical health, but also in the social and emotional needs that all humans innately possess. Therefore, our Smart Start plan creates a balance between in-person education as well as distance delivery, with options for families who may desire more home delivery options. Below is a summary of the plans for PHS and MMS at this point in time, beginning with a message from the AK Dept of Education in regards to the upcoming school year:

The goal of the 2020–2021 school year is to ensure that education and activity are the constants in students’ lives, while COVID–19 is the variable. Ensuring every child has access to meaningful, safe education while keeping children, teachers, and communities healthy will be a challenge this year. Through partnership, innovation, and collaboration we will best serve our children – the whole ecosystem of the child needs to be mobilized. We encourage districts to think of this year not as how to do more of the same – but differently, by acknowledging this school year will inherently look nothing like any school year before, and embracing the change by highlighting our communities’ ability to be resilient, creative, and flexible in this time of great challenge. Thank you for your partnership.

--Alaska Department of Education and Early Development

Safety Protocols

- Masking
 - Students will be required to wear masks throughout the school day, such as:
 - entering/leaving the building or classroom
 - moving in the halls or classrooms
 - in their classrooms
 - anytime students are unable maintain 6 foot distancing
 - asked to wear their mask by a staff member

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- mask breaks will be scheduled throughout the day.
- Screening
 - Student temperature checks will occur every morning by PSD staff as students enter the buildings
 - Student Screening questions will be asked at the door or completed from home with an app
 - Staff temperature checks will be conducted each day and screening questions will be asked or completed through an app
- Lockers will not be used in either building.
- Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the building.
- Classrooms will be wiped down in between classes, during lunch break, before and after school.
- Hand washing will be required throughout the school day for all staff and students.
- Classroom seating charts are set at 6 ft. spacing, with additional classrooms available when occupancy maximums are reached.
- Many staff members will have plexiglass barriers around their teaching area, as well as barriers in school offices.
- Protocols in hallways to maintain safe distances
- Bathrooms will have usage restrictions to keep groups from forming
- Staggered class release times to minimize interaction

Student and Staff Health

- To ensure a healthy school environment, a “symptom free” policy will be strictly enforced for students and staff.
- The district has coordinated with Petersburg Medical Center to secure the services of a nurse who can answer health questions and concerns for students and staff.
- Both buildings will continue to use social-emotional curricula as well as positive behavior interventions and mindfulness techniques to support the mental health of our student body.

Decisions about risk levels present in Petersburg (Red, Yellow, Green) will be determined by an advisory group consisting of school administration, medical professionals including PMC staff and Public Health, Emergency Operations Committee, and Borough officials. Our guiding document will be shared, once finalized.

The Secondary Schools will designate a **Distance Delivery coordinator**, a teacher with whom families can communicate to discuss educational options for their child utilizing a combination of district resources, including: in-person instruction, Ring Central video conferencing, Virtual High School (VHS), OdysseyWare and the Alaska Virtual Academy.

The PSD School Board has approved calendar adjustments for the upcoming school year. School offices will be open beginning on August 11th, with teachers starting on August 18th. Each grade level will have an opportunity to attend an Orientation Day, which will

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be a short schedule for staggered grades/groups at school preparing for the first day. These Orientation Days will occur prior to the first days of school, with more information forthcoming. PHS students will receive a draft of their class schedule and given information on how to make adjustments, if desired.

The first day of school for grades 6 through 12 will be August 31st.

We will begin the school year on a Yellow schedule to allow for a gradual transition for both students and staff. After a few weeks, the schools will evaluate the learning environment and procedures as well as consider moving to a Green schedule, if the Borough maintains the lower transmission and caseload of Covid-19.

Petersburg High School

Green

PHS will operate in a 5-day week. Students will be in person Monday through Fri, with an early release schedule for Friday (12:00).

Yellow

PHS will operate in a 4-day week where students will be alternating in-person and at-home education Monday through Thursday in a four period day. Students in each grade will be assigned a Blue or White group which will attend on alternating days (M/W, Tu/Th). Friday will be at home learning with distance delivered instruction for all students, with the exception of students with special needs. All learning will occur synchronously (students will use Ring Central to log in during scheduled class times).

Red

All classes will be on distance delivery.

PHS Schedule:

1	8:25 to 9:05
Read	9:10 to 9:30
2 (block)	9:30 to 10:55
3	11:00 to 12:00
Lunch	12:00 to 12:40
4 (block)	12:45 to 2:10

All students will have the option of learning from home for most classes by utilizing Ring Central (video conference) to attend classes at the same time as their peers.

Block classes (2 & 4) will meet everyday for 85 minutes (as opposed to alternating days in prior years) thus completing with content at the 9 week period or at the semester, depending on the number of credits earned. Students will begin a new course when the first block classes are completed.

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Once inservice begins, we will work with staff to create cleaning protocols for students and staff as students change classes. Additional time may be required at the end of each class period to complete cleaning protocols.

Lunch considerations - Open campus will remain for PHS students. We will provide multiple tables in the Commons, Cafe, and outside, with the potential to open additional spaces, to allow for adequate spacing to maintain a safe environment.

Schedule narrative: PHS students will begin the day in a traditional first period class, with screening (see above) occurring as they enter the building. First period is 50 minutes long. Students will transition to 2nd period where they will be delivered a grab and go, second-chance breakfast. Second period class begins with READ block, which will vary in purposes throughout each week, including time for students to Read, PBIS lessons which teach behavior expectations, short Mindfulness exercises (Mindfulness is taking a moment to breathe deeply, visualize success, be thankful, decrease stress, etc. Mindfulness is NOT a religious experience), and receive social-emotional lessons. The READ block lasts for 20 minutes. Students will remain in their 2nd period class and participate in subject matter instruction for the next 85 minutes. After second period, students have a 5 minute passing time and head to third period. Third period is now a 60 minute class period (not a block). At the completion of third period, students are released for open-campus lunch, which is 40 minutes long plus a five minute passing time for students to get to fourth period. Fourth period, the last period of the day on this draft, is a block class lasting 85 minutes.

Friday schedule at PHS, also in draft form, will include all four classes meeting throughout the day for a shorter amount of time (around 50 minutes), with students being released at approx. 12:00. Busses will run around 12:30 to allow HS students who choose to stay and eat lunch. Bus schedules to be determined.

Mitkof Middle School

Green

MMS will operate in a 5-day week. Students will be in person Monday through Fri, with an early release schedule for Friday (12:30). Learning pods will be maintained throughout the educational day, with possible exceptions for PE and exploratory classes.

Yellow

MMS will operate in a 4-day week of alternating, in-person learning, and Friday at home. Students will be rotating in-person and at-home groups Monday through Thursday. Students in each grade will be assigned a Blue or White group which will attend on alternating days (M/W, Tu/Th). Friday will be distance delivered classes for all students, with the exception of students on individual learning plans and students requiring additional support. Students will be grouped within their grade (two groups

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for 6th, two groups for 7th, three groups for 8th) and will remain in this pod of students throughout the day, with teachers moving between classrooms to work with respective pods as the schedule progresses.

Red

All classes will be on distance delivery through Ring Central. A compressed schedule may be implemented for distance learning in Red.

MMS Schedule:

1	8:15 to 9am
Read	9:05 to 9:30
2/3 (core block)	9:30 to 11:00
Lunch	11:00 to 11:40
4/5 (core block)	11:45 to 1:15
6	1:20 to 2:15

All students will have the option of learning from home for most classes b. utilizing Ring Central (video conference) to attend classes at the same time as their peers (synchronous learning).

Lunch Considerations (Green & Yellow) - MS Lunch will revert back into two separate groups and will eat and have recess with their classroom groups to keep the learning pods intact. The two sixth grade groups and one seventh grade group will eat first, while the other seventh grade group and the three eighth grade groups will go to outside recess first. These groups will rotate after 20 minutes. We will provide tables in the MS Commons, Cafe and outside to spread students out around campus.

MMS will hire a second 6th grade teacher to facilitate smaller grouping and reduced staffing exposure.

Schedule narrative (Green & Yellow): Mitkof Middle School students will go through a screening process (see above) as they enter the building, then begin their day in the auditorium with seats marked for appropriate spacing, When the bell rings, students will go to first period using a staggered release. Sixth grade students will be split into two groups and taught in the two classrooms in the lower level hallway by the two sixth grade teachers. Seventh grade students will be in two groups using the upstairs classrooms, and eighth graders will be in three groups using the remaining rooms upstairs in the MS. As subjects change, the teachers will move rooms while the students remain in the same classroom throughout the day. All students will begin the day in an exploratory such as PE, Digital Citizenship, Health or Robotics. They will be excused at the end of class to get second-chance breakfast, which will be grab and go. Students will take breakfast into their second period class for READ block, which will vary in purposes throughout each week, including time for students to Read, PBIS lessons which teach behavior expectations, short Mindfulness exercises (Mindfulness is taking a moment to

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breathe deeply, visualize success, be thankful, decrease stress, etc. Mindfulness is NOT a religious experience), and receive social-emotional lessons. The READ block lasts for 25 minutes. Students will receive instruction in two of the four core content areas during second and third periods (math, language arts, social studies and science). Students will go to lunch at 11 (see details above). Following lunch, all MS students will receive instruction in the remaining two core content areas. At 1:15, all grades will have an exploratory period (Band, Art, Shop, PE for 6th grade) to complete the educational day, with students dismissed at 2:15.

Friday schedule at MMS, also in draft form, will include all core classes meeting throughout the day, with students being released at approximately 12:30. Bus schedules to be determined.

This information is a summary of the upcoming school year with many details still in the developmental stages. Thanks in advance for everyone's flexibility in the upcoming months. Additional information, including the complete Smart Start plan from the Dept. of Education, can be found at the PSD website www.pcsd.us

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