

Bluejay Strong – January 22, 2024

Good afternoon students and parents.

We look forward to welcoming our elementary and middle school students back to school this week. The Perry Community School District School Board approved our school reopening plan last Friday.

The reopening of our schools this week will occur in a phased approach, and each building will have an open house the day before students return to the classroom. The details for each school are outlined below, as well as what everyone can expect when the buildings reopen.

Moving forward, we will continue to keep everyone updated and post new information, as needed. Please continue to monitor the district's website, Facebook pages and Bluejay Strong for updates. If you have additional questions, send them to Bluejaystrong@g.perry.k12.ia.us.

News for Today – Monday, January 22, 2024

SCHOOL REOPENING PLAN

Elementary, Preschool and PACES

- **Tuesday, January 23:** An open house for elementary parents and students will take place from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. Counseling services will be available onsite.
- **Wednesday, January 24:** Elementary students will return to the classroom and will have early dismissal at 2:00 p.m., which will continue until further notice. Mental health support for students and staff onsite, as well as other support. PACES will also resume its normal schedule, from 6 a.m. – 6 p.m.
- **Thursday, January 25:** Preschool restarts – AM preschool is from 8:10 a.m. - 10:40 a.m. and PM preschool is from 11:15 a.m. - 1:45 p.m. Transportation will run as usual, and parents will need to drop off and pick up at the main Elementary School doors on the west side by the flagpole.
- **Thursday, January 25, and Friday, January 26:** Regular school days with early dismissal. Mental health support for students and staff onsite, as well as other support.

Middle School and Success Center

- **Wednesday, January 24:** An open house for parents and students will take place from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. Counseling services will be available onsite.
- **Thursday, January 25:** Middle School students will return to the classroom with an early dismissal at 1:45 p.m. that day, and early dismissal will continue until further notice.
- **Friday, January 26:** Regular school day with early dismissal. Mental health support for students and staff onsite, as well as other support.

High School

- **Tuesday, January 30:** An open house for parents and students will take place from 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Counseling services will be available onsite.

- **Wednesday, January 31:** High School students will return to the classroom with an early dismissal at 1:45 p.m. that day, and early dismissal will continue until further notice. Mental health support for students and staff onsite, as well as other support.
- **Thursday, February 1, and Friday, February 2:** Regular school days with early dismissal. Mental health support for students and staff onsite, as well as other support.

WHAT EVERYONE CAN EXPECT IN THE BUILDINGS

Since January 4, 2024, the District has consulted with multiple state and federal agencies, including the Department of Criminal Investigation, Dallas County Emergency Management Agency, local law enforcement, the Iowa Department of Education, and the United States Department of Education.

As we transition back to school, we will continue to consult with law enforcement and other safety experts. Based on this ongoing consultation, further measures may be considered.

Following the Board's approval of the plans last Friday, here are some important things for everyone to review and be aware of regarding the reopening of our buildings:

All District Attendance Centers

- There will be heightened presence from uniformed law enforcement in each student attendance center upon initial return.
- There will be increased adult presence and visibility, including additional temporary administrative support based on the Board's approval of temporary administrator contracts.
- All visitors will utilize the Raptor system for check-in.

Elementary

- Elementary school students will not be invited to enter the elementary building prior to 7:45 a.m. unless under the direct supervision of a coach, teacher, activity sponsor, or school district employee. Students should not be dropped off prior to 7:45 a.m.
- All students and visitors entering the elementary school building will do so through the west flagpole door.

Middle School

- Middle school students will not be invited to enter the building prior to 7:30 a.m. unless under the direct supervision of a coach, teacher, activity sponsor, or school district employee. Students should not be dropped off prior to 7:30 a.m.
- All middle school students will enter the middle school through the circle drive, as usual; and bus students will enter through the Performing Arts Center – these will be the only two entry points for the middle school building.
- Parents/Guardians who are also dropping off students at the High School will need to drop off High School students separately at the High School main door off 18th St.
- At the end of the school day, all students must exit the building within 15 minutes after the last bell unless supervised by a coach, sponsor, or school district employee. Parents should make arrangements to follow this dismissal/exit time.

High School

- High school students will not be invited to enter the building prior to 7:30 a.m. unless supervised by a coach, teacher, activity sponsor, or school district employee. Students should not be dropped off prior to 7:30 a.m.
- All high school students will enter through the High School main door under the blue bricks on the west side of the building off 18th Street.
- Parents/Guardians who are also dropping off students at the Middle School will need to drop off Middle School students separately at the Middle School circle drive entrance.
- At the end of the school day, all students must exit the building within 15 minutes after the last bell unless supervised by a coach, teacher, activity sponsor, or school district employee. Students will not be able to wait in the school for evening activities to begin. Parents should make arrangements to follow this dismissal/exit time.

PACES

- All students and visitors will enter through the main office.

In addition, the District will continue to implement its Emergency Plan. Please understand that the District's emergency planning documents are not public records under Iowa law. This is because we do not want the security measures and plans necessary to protect the safety of our school community to fall into the wrong hands. We appreciate your understanding as we are doing our best to share the information we can while protecting the information we can't.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reminder: Extracurricular Activities

Competitions for middle school and high school students have resumed. Please check the district website for updates on activities and future schedules.

COUNSELING

Heart of Iowa Community Services

Heart of Iowa Community Services (www.hicsiowa.org) can connect students needing counseling to long-term mental health support and care coordination services in the McCreary Center (1800 Pattee Street) from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Financial assistance is available for those without insurance or with limited insurance coverage. We will also post support resources on the school Facebook pages. Contact Brandon Tews at brandon.tews@dallascountyiowa.gov or 515-993-1722.

Project Recovery Iowa

Visit [Project Recovery Iowa](#) – to sign up for a time for a virtual conversation, phone or chat and indicate the time that works for you. Call 1-800-447-1985 for more information.