August 18, 2021

Dear Freshwater Families,

We are excited to welcome our students back to campus for full day In-person instruction beginning Monday, August 30. Though we continue to be challenged by the ongoing threat of COVID-19 in our community, our goal is to provide a safe and positive learning environment for all of our returning and new Freshwater Dolphins. Thank you for your continued patience and support as we continue to update our plans according to the latest guidance being provided by state and county Public Health Officials.

**SCHOOL SCHEDULE:**

Mondays will be an early dismissal day each week to allow for staff meetings, professional development, and teacher collaboration time.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Days** | **Start Time** | **Release Time** | **Grades** |
| **Monday** | **8:30 a.m.** | **1:30 p.m.** | **TK-8** |
| **Tuesday – Friday** | **8:30 a.m.** | **1:30 p.m.** | **TK-Kindergarten** |
| **Tuesday – Friday** | **8:30 a.m.** | **2:45 p.m.** | **1-3** |
| **Tuesday – Friday** | **8:30 a.m.** | **3:00 p.m.** | **4-8** |

**NOTE: Students should be dropped off no earlier than 8:00 a.m.**

**TRANSPORTATION:**

Transportation will be provided for Grades 1-8. If you live in the District and need more information regarding your bus stop or pick up & drop off times, please contact the front office.

**AFTERSCHOOL CARE:**

We are excited to begin providing afterschool care for our families on a limited basis. Registration has begun for families of TK-5 Grade students in need of full time afterschool childcare **only.** Our goal is to expand our [After School Program](http://www.freshwatersd.org/programs/after-school-program/) as the year progresses.

We are also planning to offer afterschool Homework Help for Grades 6-8 and will provide more information once this is scheduled.

**ATHLETICS & MUSIC:**

Though we are planning to offer a sports and band program to upper grade students this year we are still waiting for guidance from the state to proceed. Our athletic league (NCAL) has “paused” our volleyball season which normally begins the first week of school due to the surging Delta variant, and the need for guidance and onsite COVID testing. We still encourage all athletes to complete a [Pre-participation Physical Exam](http://www.freshwatersd.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/JPA-24.pdf) and COVID-19 Liability Waiver so you are prepared to attend practices once we start.

**INDEPENDENT STUDY:**

Independent Study is available for any students not returning for In-person instruction. Please contact the front office for more information.

**Please review the following safety measures and discuss with your child(ren) prior to the first day of school:**

**DAILY SYMPTOM CHECKING:**

We are asking all Freshwater families to review the questions on our [Daily Symptom Checker](http://www.freshwatersd.org/covid-19-2/freshwater-school-daily-symptom-screener/) with your child at home each morning before coming to campus. It is crucial for the well-being of our students and staff that all questions are answered honestly and those students exhibiting symptoms are kept home. If your child arrives at school with COVID-19 symptoms you will receive a phone call and be asked to pick your child up immediately.

**MASKING:**

Universal masking is required for all students, staff, and limited visitors while on campus both indoors and outdoors.

Masks are available for anyone in need.

If possible, please send at least one extra mask to school for your child enclosed in a resealable plastic bag.

Gators, scarves, handkerchiefs, etc. are not acceptable face coverings.

Masks will only be removed outdoors when socially distanced while eating, drinking, or taking a supervised mask break.

**MITIGATION STRATEGIES:**

We will continue to provide a layered approach to safety on campus that will include:

* Universal masking
* Social distancing to the greatest extent possible both indoors and outdoors
* Students will continue to foam in and foam out when entering or exiting any room on campus
* Maintaining as much fresh air ventilation as possible in all rooms
* Continuing a robust cleaning schedule
* Vaccination or weekly COVID-19 testing for all school staff
* Planned implementation of rapid COVID-19 testing to be offered onsite

**WATER BOTTLES/BACKPACKS**

Drinking fountains are not available for students. It is important that your child(ren) bring their own water bottles to school daily. Students will need a backpack to transport their items between home and school.  Backpacks will stay with the students indoors.

**MORNING DROP OFF:**

Supervision will be provided beginning at 8:00 a.m.

Students can be dropped off either in the gym parking lot or front parking lot.

We are asking parents to remain in their cars during drop off.

If you have a TK or Kindergarten student and would like to walk them to the classroom, please park and walk your child to the Kindergarten gate located in the front parking lot unless their sibling plans to walk them past the office down the hall to class.

Students will go directly to their classroom to check in if they arrive before 8:30 a.m.

If your child is ordering breakfast, they can pick it up in the cafeteria before going to their classroom. Students will eat breakfast on the benches in front of their classroom.

**BREAKFAST & LUNCH:**

This year all students may receive free breakfast and lunch regardless of income level. All families will still need to complete an “Income Verification Form” in order for Freshwater School to maintain its funding. This form will be included in the Back to School Packets sent home on the first day of school and we appreciate you completing this important form. More information will be sent home regarding ordering procedures.

Students will eat outdoors, socially distanced, as much as possible.

**AFTERNOON PICK UP:**

This year we will resume our normal pick up routine after school.

Grades TK-Kindergarten are picked up at the flagpole at 1:30.

Grades 1-3 are picked up at the flagpole at 2:45.

Grades 4-6 are picked up at the gym parking lot at 3:00.

Grades 7-8 are picked up at the flagpole at 3:00.

Parents/Guardians picking up at the flagpole are to remain in their vehicles and wait for a staff member to walk your child(ren) out to you.

Parents/Guardians picking up in the gym lot may park and walk over to pick up their child(ren) or wait for your child to be walked over to your vehicle. Please wear a mask if you exit your vehicle.

**QUARANTINE:**

Humboldt County Public Health will continue to guide all of our decisions regarding the quarantine of staff or students based on exposures. Please prepare to have a plan to in place for your child in the event that quarantine is required, which could be up to 14 days. Students will be provided with work during this time.

We expect the required guidance from Public Health to continue to change as the year unfolds and we ask for your patience and support as we continue to navigate this pandemic together. We will provide updates to you as new information is received and look forward to a successful start of the school year on Monday, August 30.  **Please remember that our first day is an early dismissal for all students at 1:30!**

Sincerely,

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Superintendent

**Guiding Documents**

In confronting COVID-19, Freshwater School will continue to base our decision-making on guidance from public health authorities.

* We will be following California Department of Public Health School Guidance for Schools. <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/K-12-Guidance-2021-22-School-Year.aspx>
* Another helpful resource:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Schools-FAQ.aspx>

* Flowchart for a positive case in a classroom: [COVID-19 Positive Test in Classroom Flow Sheet](http://www.freshwatersd.org/covid-19-2/covid-positive-flowchart/)
* HCOE resource page: <https://hcoe.org/covid-19/>
* [Travel Guidance](http://www.freshwatersd.org/covid-19-2/travel-guidance/)