

Hamilton and SOTA I Schools

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SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
LA CROSSE



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January 8, 2021

Dear Hamilton/SOTA I families,

Due to an [update](#) from the Harvard Global Health Institute on their model for operating schools during the pandemic, in which they examined the evidence on how COVID-19 is spread in children and how it is spread at schools, the School District of La Crosse will begin transitioning to face-to-face instruction. Their multidisciplinary team found that schools with strong infection control practices successfully held in-person school, with very little transmission at school, even with high rates of community spread. As a result, their new recommendations indicate that with strong infection control practices it is safe to hold in-person school for students. The most important elements of infection control they cite are:

- universal masking
- hand and bathroom hygiene
- 4-6 air exchanges per hour
- 3-6 foot social distancing
- robust quarantine policies and contact tracing practices
- and, where feasible, surveillance/screening testing

As a result, we feel confident that our procedures are strong and are looking forward to seeing all our children and families in person again. Students in kindergarten, first and second grades will return on Wednesday, January 20th. Students in preschool, third, fourth and fifth grades will return on Monday, January 25th. Elementary students will be attending school every day. We know you have questions about safety and how the rest of the school year will look. Please know that we are committed to reducing opportunities for the COVID-19 virus to spread while still maintaining the close family/school partnership and excellent instruction that have always occurred at Hamilton/SOTA I. We will continue to work together with you as our most valuable partner to make this a safe school year for your children.

Students in the Blended Learning option will have **synchronous instruction Monday and Tuesday, January 11th and 12th and asynchronous instruction on Wednesday, January 13th**. In preparation for school starting on Wednesday, January 20th, we will **not have school Thursday, January 14th and Friday January 15th**.

There is no school on Monday, January 18th in honor of Martin Luther King Day, and Tuesday, January 19th for staff development.

*Please note: students enrolled in the CRVA **will** have class on Thursday, January 14th and Tuesday January 19th.*

Now that conditions have been determined to be safe for School to take place in person, here are our current plans with respect to supporting the safety of our children and staff. The following information applies to all students enrolled in the Blended Learning option and *does not* apply to CRVA.

Blended Learning Transition Dates

January 2021				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
11th Synchronous Virtual Instruction	12th Synchronous Virtual Instruction	13th Asynchronous Virtual Instruction	14th No School	15th No School
18th No School	19th No School	20th Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd Grades: In Person 3rd, 4th, 5th Grades: Virtual Instruction	21st Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd Grades: In Person 3rd, 4th, 5th Grades: Virtual Instruction	22nd Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd Grades: In Person 3rd, 4th, 5th Grades: Virtual Instruction
25th Preschool, 3rd, 4th, 5th Grades: Begin In Person All Elementary Students In Person	26th All Elementary Students In Person	27th All Elementary Students In Person	28th All Elementary Students In Person	29th All Elementary Students In Person

Please note: students enrolled in the CRVA will have class on January 14th, 15th and 19th.

SYMPTOM SCREENING

In order to ensure that anyone entering our school buildings is not displaying symptoms of COVID 19 and has not been in contact with anyone who has tested positive for COVID 19, we will be requiring that all students complete a Symptom Screening Survey each day prior to entry to the building. Parents/guardians are asked to complete this before their child leaves for school and to keep their child home if they are demonstrating any symptoms of COVID-19 or have been in close contact with a positive case. Students who have not completed the screener prior to arrival will be screened upon arrival by school staff. If a student arrives at school and does not pass this screener, parents will be contacted to pick up their child as quickly as possible and contact their medical provider.

To access the survey you can do one of the following options. You may need to enter your child's lunch/key pad code. You can get that number through Skyward Family Access (Food Service) or by contacting the building Administrative Assistant or your child's teacher.

1. Use the link you receive in the daily symptom screener email that is sent to the email address you have listed in Skyward. This email will be sent each morning at 5am and 7am (you only need to complete the survey once).
2. Scan the QR code below (using the camera app (Apple) or QR Reader App) to complete the Symptom Screener before entering the building.



3. Or copy and paste the URL below into your internet browser:

https://lacrosse.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cAspkFgjoH6OIE1

Remember, please keep your child home if they or anyone in the household::

- has symptoms of COVID-19 or
- has been tested for COVID-19 (due to symptoms or potential close contact with a positive case) and are awaiting results or
- If your child has been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

We ask that you make completion of this survey prior to arrival at school a priority. The more students that are able to complete the survey before arrival, the safer our school buildings will be and the less time will be needed to screen students upon arrival to school. We thank you for your assistance in this important safety procedure.

For your convenience your student will have a Symptom Screening tag attached to their backpack while at school on their return date.

WHEN TO STAY HOME FROM SCHOOL

As we come back to face to face instruction it is important for families to know when to keep their child home from school. The following is important information about how to decide if your child should stay home:

I should not attend in-person school or activities if:

<p>I or my siblings have 1 of the following symptoms above baseline in the last 24 hours:</p> <p>COUGH</p> <p>SHORTNESS OF BREATH / DIFFICULTY BREATHING</p> <p>LOSS OF TASTE OR SMELL</p> <p>*FEVER OF 100°F</p> <p>*VOMITING</p> <p>*DIARRHEA</p>	OR	<p>I or my siblings have 2 of the following symptoms above baseline in the last 24 hours:</p> <p>HEADACHE</p> <p>BODY ACHES</p> <p>FATIGUE</p> <p>CHILLS</p> <p>CONGESTION OR RUNNY NOSE</p> <p>SORE THROAT</p> <p>NAUSEA</p>	OR	<p>I am a close contact of a confirmed COVID case meaning:</p> <p>HAD DIRECT PHYSICAL CONTACT WITH THE PERSON OR WERE WITHIN 6 FEET OF THE PERSON FOR 15 CUMULATIVE MINUTES IN A DAY OR HAD CONTACT WITH THE PERSON'S RESPIRATORY SECRETIONS (COUGHED/SNEEZED ON OR SHARED DRINKING GLASS/FOOD)</p>
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***NOTE:** IF THE ONLY SYMPTOM IS VOMITING OR DIARRHEA OR FEVER—ALONE—STUDENT SHOULD BE EXCLUDED UNTIL FEVER FREE, DIARRHEA FREE OR NO VOMITING FOR 24 CONSECUTIVE HOURS. HOWEVER, IT DOES NOT NECESSARILY INDICATE THE NEED TO TEST FOR COVID OR FOR COVID ISOLATION. CONTACT YOUR PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER FOR GUIDANCE.

When can we return to school and work?

	Sick person	Household members
Sick individual is diagnosed with a different illness	Follow guidance from medical provider	All well individuals may return to school and work
Sick individual tests negative for COVID-19	24 hours symptom free without using medicine	All well individuals may return to school and work
Sick individual tests positive for COVID-19	10 days after symptoms started AND fever free for 24 hours with other symptoms improving	14 days after last contact with sick person AND do not have any COVID symptoms
Sick individual does not test for COVID-19 and does not have a medical diagnosis of another illness	10 days after symptoms started AND fever free for 24 hours with other symptoms improving	14 days after last contact with sick person AND do not have any COVID symptoms

Note: There are other times a child will be required to stay home from school because of potential exposure to COVID. Public Health will provide directions if this happens.

When can I return to in-person school or activities?

Positive COVID Test:
 MAY RETURN AFTER 10 DAYS SINCE THE FIRST SYMPTOM **AND** AT LEAST 24 HOURS NO FEVER WITHOUT MEDICATION **AND** SYMPTOMS HAVE IMPROVED

No COVID Test:
 MAY RETURN AFTER 10 DAYS SINCE THE FIRST SYMPTOM **AND** AT LEAST 24 HOURS NO FEVER WITHOUT MEDICATION, NO VOMITING, **AND** SYMPTOMS HAVE IMPROVED **OR** DOCTOR'S NOTE

Negative COVID Test:
 DOCTOR'S NOTE **AND** AT LEAST 24 HOURS NO FEVER WITHOUT MEDICATION **AND** AT LEAST 24 HOURS NO VOMITING

Close Contact of a COVID Case:
 MAY RETURN AFTER 14 DAYS FROM LAST EXPOSURE **AND** WITH NO SYMPTOMS, EVEN IF PRIOR TO THE 14 DAYS YOU HAD A NEGATIVE TEST

INDIVIDUALS SHOULD FOLLOW ALL ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE PERIODS PROVIDED BY THE LA CROSSE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT. CASE-BY-CASE DETERMINATIONS MAY ALTER THE ISOLATION OR QUARANTINE RECOMMENDATION.

In the event that your child has to stay home, please keep in mind the following attendance considerations:

Out due to close contact with a positive COVID case	Out due to symptoms of COVID 19	Out due to household member's symptoms or test	Out due to a Positive COVID 19 test
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You are expected to participate in all of your learning activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you are able, you are expected to participate in all of your learning activities If you are experiencing symptoms that don't allow you to complete work, please contact the main office and your teacher 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You are expected to participate in all of your learning activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You are expected to participate in all of your learning activities If you are experiencing symptoms that don't allow you to complete work, please contact main office and your teacher

CLOTH FACE COVERINGS/MASKS

All students and staff will be expected to wear a cloth face covering at all times while on school property, including at recess. This includes on the bus if your child is receiving transportation. Exceptions to this will be students

who cannot wear a mask due to a medical (with documentation from your child's doctor) or disability related reason. If this applies to your child, please connect with your child's special education case manager or the school nurse. Staff will work with students who are not used to wearing a face mask to help them get accustomed to wearing one and will provide reminders and support throughout the day. Cloth masks will be provided for students that do not supply their own. Cloth masks from home should be washed daily.

A face covering means a piece of cloth or other material that is worn to cover the nose and mouth completely. A "face covering" includes but is not limited to a bandana, a cloth face mask, a disposable or paper mask, a neck gaiter. A "face covering" does not include face shields, mesh masks, masks with holes or openings or masks with vents.

Please be aware that we cannot guarantee that every student will keep a mask on at all times. Staff will provide assistance putting on masks if needed and will provide reminders to every student.

Ipads and School Materials Drop-off

In order to make the first day of school as successful as possible, we are strongly encouraging parents to drop off the following items before Jan 20th.

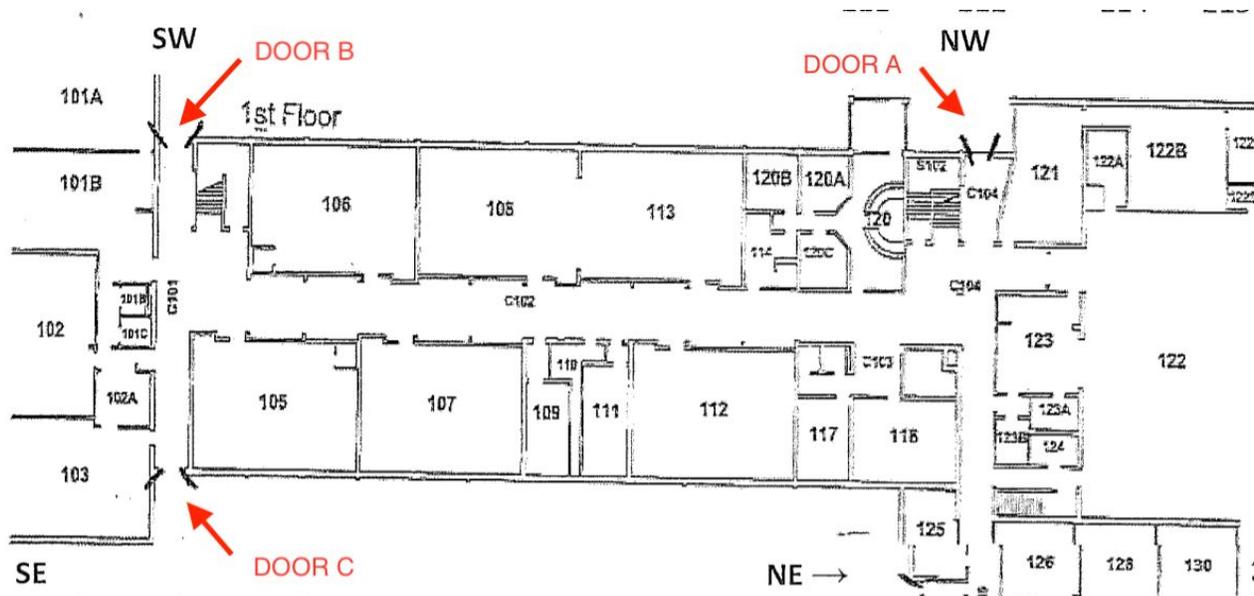
- Ipads and chargers (3rd-5th will still need their ipads and chargers Jan 20-22 for remote instruction)
- School supplies

We have designated the following as drop-off times:

- Wed, Jan 13 - 12:00-3:00
- Thur, Jan 14 - 9:00-3:00
- Fri, Jan 15 - 9:00-3:00

ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL

We are going to stagger our arrival and dismissal as much as possible to avoid large gatherings of students. Please pay specific attention to your child's designated time and door. When dropping off and picking up your child, I encourage you to be mindful of traffic flow and to not linger and congregate for safety reasons.



Door A - Main entrance off of 7th street to the left of the office

Door B - South entrance off of 7th street

Door C - Southeast playground entrance off of Adams street - go through the gate

Arrival

Students will be expected to maintain 6 ft distancing when entering the building, have their masks on, and go directly to their classrooms.

<u>School</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Door</u>	<u>Classes</u>
Hamilton	7:45-8:00	Door A	Erickson - 2nd (108) Semb - 3rd/4th (211) Stacey - 4th/5th (113) Court - 4th/5th (112)
		Door B	Howe - K (107) Schneider - K/1st (106) Speckeen - 1st (101) Wettstein - 1st/2nd (203) Miller - 3rd (202)
		Door C	Smillie - 4k (105) and Buses
SOTA	8:00-8:15	Door A	Duddeck - 1st/2nd (209) Lawrence - 5th (212)
		Door B	Jordan - K/1st (204) Fuller - 3rd/4th (205)
		Door C	Smillie - 4k (105) and Buses

Dismissal

Students will be expected to exit the building maintaining 6 ft distancing and should go straight to their adult (no congregating near the doors). Students riding the bus will be expected to wait for the bus with their masks on and maintain 6 ft distancing.

<u>School</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Door</u>	<u>Classes</u>
Hamilton	2:40	Door A	Semb - 3rd/4th (211) Court - 4th/5th (112)
		Door B	Howe - K (107) Miller - 3rd (202)
		Door C	Smillie - 4k (105) and Buses
Hamilton	2:48	Door A	Erickson - 2nd (108) Stacey - 4th/5th (113)
		Door B	Schneider - K/1st (106) Speckeen - 1st (101) Wettstein - 1st/2nd (203)
SOTA	3:15	Door A	Duddeck - 1st/2nd (209) Lawrence - 5th (212)

	11:45 on Wednesdays	Door B	Jordan - K/1st (204) Fuller - 3rd/4th (205)
		Door C	Buses

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

We are always committed to addressing the social and emotional needs of our children, but particularly during this COVID-19 period in our community. We will:

- Ensure that classroom and school spaces are safe, positive, welcoming and supportive learning environments.
- Have resources available that can help parents/caregivers support childrens' mental wellness.
- Provide parents/caregivers a confidential way to let schools know about concerns they have about their child returning to learning at school.
- Monitor and recognize early warning signs in children or identify children who may need support.
- Ensure school counselors and social workers will be available to respond to emerging needs of children at school and to support their mental health while learning online.

PARENT/CAREGIVER & STAFF COMMUNICATION

- Parents/Caregivers are allowed in the school office only at this time. Admittance to other areas of the building is currently prohibited.
- If a parent/caregiver needs to pick up a child early, they will be asked to wait outside of the building. Staff will escort the child outside to the parent/caregiver.
- When a child is ill, parents/caregivers are asked to be at school within 30 minutes of receiving our call.
- In-person large group gatherings (concerts, family nights, etc.) are cancelled or moved virtually indefinitely.

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE CLASSROOM?

- Instructional plans for this school year have been embedded with curriculum developed to provide instruction on missed standards from the last school year.
- Classrooms will be set up and instruction will be designed to maximize the distance between children in accordance with social distancing guidelines.
- Students will have their own supplies and will not share supplies.
- Parents/caregivers are asked to label all supplies, clothes, outerwear, etc., with the child's name.
- Floor markings will be in place to assist children in social distancing.
- Field trips will be limited to walking to a nearby outdoor space. Masks and social distancing practices will be implemented on walking field trips.
- Assemblies or large group gatherings will be conducted virtually in the classroom.
- Movement about the building throughout the day will be minimized. Children will stay in their classrooms to minimize contact with other children, with the exception of bathroom breaks and recess.
- Specialist teachers (art, music, PE, library and guidance) will teach in the homeroom classrooms (or outside if the weather permits).
- English Language and Special Education instruction will be provided in a safe way specific to the needs of the individual child.
- Should La Crosse County require it, individual children (or in some cases, the entire class or school) could return to a temporary remote learning environment delivered by your child's teachers via district provided technology.
- We will be keeping ipads, chargers, and stylus pens at school. If your child is required to quarantine, we will deliver everything they need to participate in school within 3 days.
- Please note that some of our policies and procedures may differ from those of HeadStart, BGC, YMCA, etc.

GENERAL CLEANING OF BUILDING ENVIRONMENT

- All classrooms have hand sanitizer available for children.
- Hand sanitizer stations are set up throughout the building.
- Proper disinfecting procedures will be used before and after each meal/snack.
- Classrooms will be fully sanitized every evening.

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

There was a COVID specific addendum to the student code of conduct this year (see attachment). Specifically, the following language describes the expectations and consequences related to students following COVID safety protocols (wearing masks and social distancing):

Students will be required to maintain physical distancing and wear masks at certain times during the school day. Students will be provided with frequent reminders to do so. Students who decline to wear masks or physical distance when required to do so (without an exception) will be referred to the building administrator and may be assigned to remote learning until a plan for improved behavior can be developed with the student and their family. This will not be considered a disciplinary removal nor suspension as they will be expected to maintain pace in their course(s) while in remote learning.

It is our hope to not have to assign remote learning days, but the physical health of all individuals and our ability to remain in-person could be compromised by students refusing to follow these safety protocols. If that were to be the case, we would work with you to develop a plan to keep everyone safe.

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