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# SPIRIT LAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL COVID-19 GUIDELINES

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AUGUST 2020

SPIRIT LAKE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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# MIDDLE SCHOOL GENERAL GUIDELINES

TERRY BRUINSMA, MS PRINCIPAL

- Visitors will be limited.
- Volunteers will be allowed after approval from building administrator.
- Guardians must check in at the office when picking students up for appointments.
- When students are feeling ill, please keep them home! School personnel will be making contact with families who do not call in absences.
- Students must remain home until they are symptom free (without fever-reducing medications) for 24 hours.
- When students return to school from being ill, students should check in at the office before going to class for a wellness check to be sure students are well enough to be at school.
- Please drop off students as close to 8:10am as possible.
- We ask that parents/guardians drop students off for school whenever possible to limit the number of students riding the bus.
- All Students in grades 5-8 will be traveling through their classes in cohort groups. Students will not intermingle with other students in different cohorts.
- Masks will be required in hallways.
- Students will be seated in classrooms 6 feet apart.
- We recommend students wear masks when moving in classrooms.
- When students/staff in grades PK-12 are seated in their distanced area - at least 6 feet apart - they may remove their face covering, if desired. If students incur situations that cause them sit within six feet for more than 15 minutes, staff may direct students to wear a face covering.

# MIDDLE SCHOOL GENERAL GUIDELINES

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- Lunch, PE, Band and Recess are unique situations that will be handled differently.
- Students and staff will be given two cloth masks for use. Face shields as a stand alone face covering will only be allowed with a note from a doctor.
- Hand washing and hand sanitizing will be frequent, regular parts of our daily routine. In addition to classroom sanitizer, students are encouraged to bring their own hand sanitizer.
- Additional cleaning measures will be implemented using our custodial staff and hiring an outsourced sanitizing company.
- All students are encouraged to bring their own refillable water bottle.



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## **5th and 6th grade guidelines**

- Please drop students off students at the middle school as close to 8:10am as possible.
- Upon entering the building, students will be directed to their homeroom classrooms. Students will not be allowed to "roam" throughout the building before school.
- Students will be social distanced at lunch as well. At this time, no visitors will be allowed at lunch.
- Students will be attending their specials in their homeroom classrooms.



# MIDDLE SCHOOL GENERAL GUIDELINES

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## 7th grade guidelines

To ensure proper social distancing practices our 7th grade students will be attending their classes at Lutheran Lakeside Camp located approximately 1 mile south of the middle school (2491 170th St, Spirit Lake, IA 51360). This location was selected for its proximity to our school campus along with the space needed for social distancing. All classes will still be offered by middle school staff at this location, including including noncore classes such as band, chorus, PE, Art, etc. Having 7th grade students off school campus provides for some unique situations. Please be advised of these below.

- Parents are encouraged to pickup and drop off their 7th grade student at the camp location each day. Dropping them off as close to 8:10am is recommended. Pickup is still scheduled for 3:26.
- Parents will still have the option of dropping off their 7th grader at the middle school each morning. 7th grade students will wait in the gym for a shuttle bus to camp each morning.
- Parents can still pick up their 7th graders each day at the middle school if they wish, as a shuttle bus will also bring students back to the middle school at the end of each day.
- Please continue to contact our middle school office manager, Heidi Schneider, for messages that will need to be given to 7th grade students. If students need to be picked up early for appointments or other matters, please contact our middle office so we can relay the message to teachers at the camp.

# MIDDLE SCHOOL GENERAL GUIDELINES

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## **7th grade guidelines cont.**

- Students will be encouraged to wear their backpacks to each class
- Lunch for students at the camp location will be the same as lunch for students on school grounds.
- A map of the camp location will be coming soon.

All previous statements regarding social distancing, cohort groups, masking, cleaning procedures, etc. will apply for 7th graders at camp as well.



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## 8th grade guidelines

To start the school year 8th grade students will have their classrooms located at the high school. This decision was based on the need to keep students in classrooms where 6 feet of social distancing could be maintained at all times. 8th grade classrooms will be located in the high school media center (which has been divided into three large classrooms) as well as the SAMI center Black Box. Things to be advised on for this situation:

- 8th grade students will NOT be in classrooms with high school students.
- 8th grade students will follow cohort groups throughout the day.
- 8th grade students will still receive all core subject areas, specials classes and electives.
- Students are encouraged to bring backpacks to carry.
- 8th grade students should still be dropped off at the middle school as close to 8:10am as possible. Students will then walk to their classroom at the high school entering the building through the SAMI Center main doors.
- 8th grade students will be eating lunch in the high school commons. 8th grade students will only eat with 8th grade student. Students will be social distanced during this time.
- Students will be picked up at the middle school each day after walking over from their classrooms at the high school. Dismissal will still be 3:26pm.
- Please continue to contact the middle school office for all messages to be sent to your student.

# MIDDLE SCHOOL GENERAL GUIDELINES

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## **8th grade guidelines cont.**

All previous statements regarding social distancing, cohort groups, masking, cleaning procedures, etc. will apply for 7th graders at camp as well.





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The above mentioned guidelines are our recommendation for Spirit Lake Schools' Return to School. This comes to you with thoughtful consideration for the health and safety of our staff and students, educational need of our students, countless meetings and discussions with staff, parents, medical personnel and other school leaders. We request your flexibility, support and patience as we handle this unprecedented situation. We will get through this and we will do it together!

