

# Durant Community School District Return To Learn Handbook for Families Fall 2021

Durant Community School District

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## Contacts:

Joe Burnett- Superintendent  
Rebecca Stineman- PK-6th Principal  
Joel Diederichs- Jr/Sr High School Principal (7th-12th)  
Maria Brown- Director of Instruction  
Mary Dorris- District Nurse

**All items in this handbook are subject to change at any given time based on changing circumstances. This handbook version is current as of August 9, 2021**

*Although this document provides a detailed overview of what the 2021-22 school year could look like, we will be responsive to our students' needs and future guidance from the aforementioned organizations. Any parts of our plan may change due to the fluidity of the situation. Updates will be communicated to families through the year.*

## Durant Wildcat Return to Learn Summary

Option 1 In Person Learning	Option 2 Remote Instruction for students with a medical recommendation	Communication	Commitments to Safety
<p>The Durant Community School District will offer face in person learning. This will be done on the traditional school schedule/calendar.</p> <hr/> <p>In order to choose this option please select “in person learning” when registering your child for school.</p> <p>To register please go to: <a href="http://www.dursis.durant.k12.ia.us">www.dursis.durant.k12.ia.us</a></p> <p>* At any point in the year if the Governor should make a proclamation or the Health Department should shut school down - we will transition to a virtual setting presented by our classroom teachers. Information would be provided if and when that happens.</p>	<p>The Durant Community School District will be utilizing Edgenuity for families who choose Remote Instruction.</p> <hr/> <p><b>K-6:</b> A family wanting to use Edgenuity at the K-6 level will have this option available for the 1st semester.</p> <p><b>7-12:</b> A family wanting to use Edgenuity at the 7-12 level would need a doctor's note that says their child (ren) has a pre-existing condition that is known to be impacted by catching COVID. An online student will not be allowed to attend or participate in school-related events (athletics, Homecoming Dance, Prom, dual enrollment in classes, etc...)</p> <p>Please contact Maria Brown or Jenny Dittmer for enrollment.</p>	<p>The Durant Community School District will utilize the JMC messaging system as a way to communicate with families.</p> <hr/> <p>We will be following the recommendations of the Iowa Department of Public Health, the Iowa Department of Education, Cedar County Public Health, and the CDC., as well as any proclamations made by the governor.</p> <p>Please make sure you are signed up for parent alerts through JMC.</p> <p>Please understand that if a child or staff member contracts COVID we will not send a mass communication.</p>	<p>The Durant Community School District will utilize these practices To Improve Health and Safety.</p> <hr/> <p>While face masks will be optional for students and staff, unvaccinated persons are encouraged to wear masks when in the building.</p> <p>More frequent hand washing</p> <p>Hand sanitizing stations will be located throughout the buildings</p> <p>Water bottle filling stations are available. Students may bring their own water bottle with them.</p> <p>The Durant Maintenance Team will be moving throughout the facilities to clean high-touch surfaces.</p>

## **Introduction:**

This handbook is based on available public health information at the time of its creation. These plans were created with committees that had representation from school administrators, teachers, nurses, counselors, nutrition, maintenance and transportation directors along with AEA9 Consultants of the Durant CSD. The handbook will be adjusted based on newly available data and guidance from public health officials.

## **Mission Statement:**

It is the mission of the Durant Community School District to enable students to understand the world around them and grow the talents within them so they can become fulfilled individuals and active, compassionate citizens.

## **Learning Options for Durant CSD**

1. **On-Site** - 100% of students physically in the building. Students will follow a traditional schedule with traditional classroom structure.
2. **Remote Instruction**- By choosing not to send your student to school onsite, your student will be participating in the required online learning model provided by the district. At this point the district will be contracting EdGenuity, an online education provider approved by the State of Iowa. The provider will give us access to curriculum in all content areas K-12.

**Elementary (K-6)** A family wanting to use Edgenuity at the K-6 level will have this option available for the 1st semester.

**Jr./Sr. High (Grades 7th-12th)** A family wanting to use Edgenuity at the 7-12 level would need a doctor's note that says their child (ren) has a pre-existing condition that is known to be impacted by catching COVID. An online student will not be allowed to attend or participate in school-related events (athletics, Homecoming Dance, Prom, dual enrollment in classes, etc...)

For more information please contact: [maria.brown@durant.k12.ia.us](mailto:maria.brown@durant.k12.ia.us) or [jenny.dittmer@durant.k12.ia.us](mailto:jenny.dittmer@durant.k12.ia.us)

or explore the following website <https://www.edgenuity.com/>.

## **Edgenuity Links:**

Video Library: <https://www.edgenuity.com/video-library/>

Course Content Video: <https://www.edgenuity.com/video-library/?vid=4109760660001>

Student Expiration Video: <https://www.edgenuity.com/video-library/?vid=5978276525001>

**Latest Link from the Iowa Department of Health: <https://idph.iowa.gov/>**

**Iowa Department of Health Issues Updated COVID-19 Guidance to School and Child Care Settings:**

**<https://idph.iowa.gov/News/ArtMID/646/ArticleID/158416/IDPH-Issues-Updated-COVID-19-Guidance-to-Schools-and-Child-Care-Settings>**

## **Leadership:**

All communications regarding changes in delivery of instruction will be by administrators.

### **Communication when changes occur with school closings or required continuous learning:**

The Durant Community School District will provide updates via School Messenger. To be sure the messages reach you, please confirm your email contact information:

1. (School Messenger)
2. JMC Parent Portal - [dursis.durant.k12.ia.us](https://dursis.durant.k12.ia.us) or access is located on the Durant Webpage-request contact information changes.
3. Consider following the district on social media.
4. If you have additional questions, you can always reach out to the Central Office or your building principal.

Durant Community School District Central Office  
563-785-4432

Durant Elementary School (PK-6)  
Rebecca Stineman -Principal  
563-785-4433

Durant Jr/Sr/ High School (7th-12th)  
Joel Diederichs- Principal  
563-785-4431

## **Infrastructure:**

### **Durant Community School District technology platforms:**

The platforms we will be using as a district are:

PK-2: Google Sites

3rd-12: Google Site/Google Classroom

### **Teacher Google Sites/Google Classroom:**

Durant Community School District Teachers will have a Google Site (PK-2) and Google Site/Classroom (3rd-12th) created with the following components:

- Their contact information
- Syllabus (Middle School and High School)
- I Can Statements (Elementary)
- Resources Links (i.e. Learning Farm)
- Google Calendar

### **Families or students who do not have access to the internet:**

Please contact the Durant Community School District's Technology Coordinator- Laurie Botkins if you need access to the internet to discuss options.

### **Logging into an Ipad and google account:**

Your student's login is: Last 2 digits of graduation year, Student's first initial and last name

Login: ex. 22lbotkins@durant.k12.ia.us

Password: Cats and your student's four digit lunch number

Ex. Cats1234

### **Resource to help navigate the technology my student uses for online learning.**

In the fall, teachers will provide you with a bank of resources specific to your student's class. Meantime, you may find these tutorials helpful.

[Google Classroom video](#) (3-12)

[Google Classroom Help for 7-12 video](#)

[Google Classroom Document](#)

## Health & Safety:

### Our commitment to health and safety:

1. Students will be offered hand sanitizer upon entering into the building
2. Transportation Cleaning- Sprayer
3. Enhanced Environmental Services- The Durant Maintenance Team will be moving throughout our facilities to clean high-touch surfaces.
4. Masks will be provided for school employees and students who request them.
5. CDC and Handwashing Signage will be posted throughout the building
6. Adults and students, masks are optional.

### Proper hand washing to be maintained:

Additional hand washing time will be built into the daily schedule. Teachers and staff will monitor students to ensure proper handwashing techniques. When hand washing is not feasible, hand sanitizer will be available. Teachers will be issued a spray bottle of hand sanitizer and will spray students hands before entering the classroom. Please consider [the CDC site on handwashing](#) to help your student learn best practices.

### Students who become ill:

- Along with assistance from local public health, the school nurse will be following the Iowa Department of Public Health's Epi Manual chapter on Covid-19 (SARS-CoV-2), which may be found at:  
<https://wiki.idph.iowa.gov/epimanual/Home/CategoryID/522>
- **DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL IF THEY ARE ILL!**
- Students or staff with fever of **100.0** or any other signs and symptoms of illness will be asked to go home. **Please be prepared in some cases for your student to be excluded from school until they are symptom free or for a minimum of 24 hours.**
- If you are called to pick up your student due to illness, it will be expected that he or she be picked up **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**, or within a maximum **45-60 minutes**. Please make arrangements for this to happen. School staff **MUST** be able to reach a parent or another family contact when needed, and they must be picked up in a timely manner.
- If a positive COVID-19 case is identified at school, they will be required to remain home for 10 days following the onset of symptoms.

**Temperature screenings prior to entering school buildings:**

- At this point in time we will not be administering temperature screenings prior to entering school buildings. The District asks that you take your student's temperature before coming to school. Do not allow your student to attend school if their temperature is above 100 degrees. Call your healthcare provider and the attendance office if your student is presenting symptoms.

**Drinking fountains:**

- Drinking fountains will be available throughout the school day, but we prefer that students bring their own water bottles to school for personal use. If you wish to send a labeled personal water bottle with your student, it needs to be clear, and have a twist off cap for filling that is separate from the drinking or straw opening.

**Cafeteria:**

1. All disposable trays, silverware. Students will not serve their own fruits/veggies, they will all be pre-packaged.
2. Students will not enter their lunch number on the keypad, they will say their name and the cashier will either enter the student's transaction or scan the student's barcode.
3. Kitchen staff may wear masks or shields. Hand washing and glove use as normal following CDC and ServSafe Food Safety guidelines.
4. Specific cleaning procedures will be implemented in eating areas.
5. Social distancing throughout lunch line and in eating areas
6. Hand sanitizer stations throughout lunch lines and cafeteria
7. Students would have assigned areas

**Buses:**

1. Food or drinks will not be allowed on the busses.
2. Face masks are optional on the buses.

### **Building and Grounds Recommendations:**

1. Custodial staff members will assess the most effective manner for cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting buildings and grounds. Custodial schedules will be changed accordingly. United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved disinfectants for SARS-COV 2 will be used.
2. In addition to the regularly scheduled cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting of all buildings, high-touch surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected daily including tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks.

### **Classrooms:**

1. Interior doors will be kept open as much as possible
2. Tables will be spread far apart, utilizing all parts of the room for social distancing

### **Visitors in the building:**

- Visitors will be limited to essential purposes during the school day to preserve the safest possible learning environment for students and staff.

### **Procedure for picking up my child during the school day:**

- If a student needs to leave school during the day for any reason, families will remain outside in their vehicle and phone the office. Students will be escorted out of the building.

### **Support appropriate general mitigation strategies across delivery models:**

- The Durant Community School District did require staff to participate in IDOE recommended health training modules and will post and review district health expectations for staff/students and visitors.
- The Durant Community School District will follow IDOE/legal council recommendations regarding privacy in communication to others in suspected COVID 19 cases.
- The Durant Community School District encourages students and staff that are considered “high risk” or immunocompromised to visit their healthcare provider.



## **Social Emotional Behavior Health:**

### **Who to contact, If my student is showing signs of emotional distress:**

We encourage you to reach out to your student's teacher. You may also contact your building principal or guidance counselor for additional support.

Durant Community School Student Services Team:

- Jenny Dittmer- Student Services Coordinator
- Kristy Badtramm- High School Guidance Counselor
- Kristin Milotte- Elementary Guidance Counselor

Here is another resource to help you in case of an emergency or needing additional support:

Eastern Iowa Mental Health and Disability Services Region  
Hotline Number: 844-430-0375 this is a 24 hour crisis line  
Website: [www.EasternIowaMHDS.org](http://www.EasternIowaMHDS.org)

### **Signs of emotional distress:**

**According to the American Psychological Association, symptoms of distress may look different in children and teens than adults. For children distress may look like:**

- acting irritable or moody
- withdrawing from activities that used to give them pleasure
- routinely expressing worries
- complaining more than usual about school
- crying
- displaying surprising fearful reactions
- clinging to a parent or teacher
- sleeping too much or too little
- eating too much or too little

**For teens distress may look like, all of the above signs of distress in children as well as:**

- significantly avoiding parents
- abandoning long-time friendships for a new set of peers
- expressing excessive hostility toward family members

### **How can I assess my student's emotional health?**

Here are few resources to help you:

[CDC Helping Children Cope with Emergencies](#)  
[How to Ask What Kids are Feeling](#)

**Accessing - Wildcat Food Bank Backpacks:**

The Backpack program targets children who are chronically hungry or food insecure. A sack of food is sent home with your child(ren) on Fridays or the last day before a break. It includes nutritious breakfast, lunch, and dinner options for your child(ren) to eat over the weekend. Please contact Student Services Director Jenny Dittmer (jenny.dittmer@durant.k12.ia.us) to refer your child(ren) or for more information on the Wildcat Food Bank Backpacks.

**Equity:****At Risk:**

The Durant Community School District will ensure equity support for all students including our at-risk population. We will continue to identify those at risk based on our data and survey results.

- Participation in services will be tracked through the district's learning platform, Google Sites/Google Classroom, along with participation with teachers through distance learning. Additional communication will occur from teachers/counselors/administrators to families/students when participation is not occurring or there are barriers to overcome with the instruction.
- Technology and internet needs will be met through the district's technology plan.

**Special Education:**

The Durant Community School District will ensure appropriate access to and equity of Iowa's Academic Standards and other needs as the result of the disability and ensure all rights and responsibilities under IDEA are provided.

Families with children with an IEP will receive the same communication that applies to everyone in our district. If additional communication needs do occur regarding special education services, the administrators will communicate directly with the families or their roster teacher may provide this communication as well. All procedural safeguards that accompany an IEP will still be in effect in all learning scenarios.

**IEP/504 Parent Meetings:**

IEP meetings will continue to be conducted virtually if the district is currently accessing the full distance model or if we are utilizing on-site instruction. This will help to control the visitors in our building due to health/safety concerns. If parents/guardians need assistance to access technology, the roster teacher will reach out to the parents/guardians prior to the meeting to help troubleshoot the technology resources. If parents/guardians are not able to virtually attend the meeting, they may attend via phone.



## Protecting and Improving the Health of Iowans

Kim Reynolds, Governor

Adam Gregg, Lt. Governor

Kelly Garcia, Interim Director

### COVID-19 and K-12 School Update for Fall 2021

#### Vaccination

While not required, vaccination for everyone who is eligible continues to be the most effective way to prevent COVID-19 illness and stop the spread of COVID-19.

- For COVID-19 Vaccine information visit: <https://vaccinate.iowa.gov/>

#### Testing

Individuals (including students, teachers, and other staff) can seek testing through their normal healthcare channels or through other sites that provide testing services (i.e., local pharmacies).

- Information about free at-home testing through SHL is available at: <https://www.testiowa.com/>

#### School Illness Reporting

IDPH continues to ask K-12 schools to report when >10% of students are absent due to illness. When >10% absenteeism is reported, IDPH will contact the Local Public Health (LPH) department in the county where the school administrative offices are located. Public health will contact the school to provide best practices and support tailored to the specific types of illnesses being reported.

- Schools should report >10% absenteeism at: <https://redcap.idph.state.ia.us/surveys/?s=LEFK7E779R>

#### Masks and Cloth Face Coverings

HF 847, signed by Governor Reynolds on May 20, 2021, prohibits a school district from adopting or enforcing a policy that requires employees, students, or the public to wear a mask while on school property. As such, masks must be optional for students, teachers, and visitors.

#### Frequently Asked Questions

##### Is IDPH currently performing COVID-19 positive case investigations for all positive reports or conducting contact tracing for COVID-19 exposed persons?

No. IDPH has adjusted COVID-19 surveillance to follow the influenza model; state case investigation and tracing efforts for COVID-19 now focus on outbreaks and vulnerable populations. Just like with other public health activities, these efforts will be continuously evaluated and adjusted as needed.

##### Will IDPH issue isolation and quarantine orders for COVID-19 positive or COVID-19 exposed students, teachers, or other staff members?

No. IDPH is not currently issuing isolation and quarantine orders for COVID-19 positive or COVID-19 exposed individuals.

##### Can LPH departments require schools to perform case investigations or conduct contact tracing on their behalf?

No. While some LPH are continuing to pursue case investigations, LPH cannot require schools to perform case investigations or contact tracing. School nurses do have a legal duty to assist a local board of health in a disease investigation. See 641 IAC 1.7.

##### Can Iowa schools require that masks be worn by students, teachers, other staff members, and visitors?

No. HF 847, signed by Governor Reynolds on May 20, 2021, prohibits a school district from adopting or enforcing a policy that requires employees, students, or the public to wear a mask while on school property.