

CARTHAGE

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

District 317

FAQs

Q: Will masks and COVID verification forms still be required?

A: Yes, students will need to continue to wear your mask and bring your COVID verification forms.

Q: It looks like the students will be switching rooms for classes now. Will they be required to carry all of their books and their lunch with them when they go to each room?

A: As we are transitioning to a longer school day we are not yet allowed to use lockers. Therefore students will need to carry their backpacks with all of their materials. However, all 7th/8th-grade classes are upstairs. So they don't need to worry about traveling up and down the stairs. Most classes are also blocked, so there are only a handful of times students actually switch classes. The only time 5th grade has to move to the main building is twice a day for either pe, social studies, or science classes.

Q: Why did the entrance procedures change to having all students enter through one door?

A: Due to our schedule changes, staff that we originally had allotted for temperature/symptom checks now have classes right away and are not available. Therefore, we have available staff members at the main doors completing temperature/symptom checks and admitting students into the building. Hopefully, someday we'll be able to transition back to being able to use lockers. Bookbags may be heavy, so please communicate with your student's teachers about what materials they may need day-to-day.

Q: How is PE/Music going to work for the 5th graders?

A: In regards to 5th grade PE and music. Mr. Kniel and Mrs. Gunning will rotate PE and music classes. They will create a schedule for how that will work and will share it with the students in the near future.

Q: What will PE look like for them? In the past, the students would change into PE uniforms. Will the students be changing clothes for PE?

A: We will not be using PE locker rooms or lockers at this point in time. Students will not dress out and they will wear their street clothes for PE. We have been putting it in the announcements every day since we announced we'll be going to a 2 pm dismissal - so

students are very aware of not dressing out and that they must wear or bring tennis shoes for PE. If this changes, we will let you know.

Q: What will lunch look like?

A: Lunchtimes will be in the school cafeteria and will look like this:

5th/6th Lunch - 10:55-11:25	
10:55-11:10 - 5th Lunch	11:10 - 11:25 - 5th Recess
10:55-11:10 - 6th Recess	11:10 - 11:25 - 6th Lunch
7th/8th Lunch - 11:30-12:00	
11:30-11:45 - 7th Lunch	11:45-12:00 - 7th Recess
11:30-11:45 - 8th Recess	11:45-12:00 - 8th Lunch

When students are not in lunch they are at "recess" either in the gym or outside (weather permitting). This is once again similar to our 'normal' lunch schedules in years past. This is what we are striving for when moving to a longer day and getting closer to the 'normal' schedule.

Q: When do the doors open for kids to get inside?

A: This year we're allowing students into the building earlier than we ever have before. Parents/Guardians, if you're able, please do not drop your student off at CMS earlier than 7:35 am. **Students are permitted into the building at 7:40 am.** *Students please dress accordingly as it is winter and will be cold.* If students are dropped off earlier than 7:35 am, parents/guardians please ensure they have appropriate winter attire, as they will not be permitted into the building until 7:40 am. Bus drivers have been asked to not drop off students at CMS prior to 7:35 am.

Q: Where can I find the most up to date information?

A: Frequently check the district website (www.cesd317.org), our Carthage Middle School Facebook Page, and the Remind app. When in doubt, call the middle school office (21-357-3914) or email your student's teacher(s).

As always, things are very fluid and ever changing. Thank you to parents, guardians, and students for bearing with us as we transition to a new schedule. I'm sure there will be a few kinks here and there, as there usually are with new things, but we will work through them with time. We will keep you updated with any changes.

Thank you! - Miss Nason, CMS Principal