



Reopening Plan

2020-2021

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District Office & Campuses

Central Office

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Kansas City, MO 64108
Phone: 816.241.6200 | Fax: 816.241.6201
Superintendent: Ugur Demircan

Frontier School of Innovation (FSI) – PK – 3

6700 Corporate Drive
Kansas City, MO 64120
Phone: 816.363.1907 | Fax: 816.363.1165
Principal: Mark Barber

Frontier School of Innovation (FSI) – 4th – 8th

1575 Universal Avenue
Kansas City, MO 64120
Phone: 816.241.6202 | Fax: 816.241.6207
Principal: Lisa Lamb

Frontier STEM High School (FSHS) – 9th – 12th

6455 E Commerce Avenue
Kansas City, MO 64120
Phone: 816.541.8200 | Fax: 816.399.2747
Principal: Resul Geyik

Frontier School of Excellence (FSE) – 6th – 12th

5605 Troost Avenue
Kansas City, MO 64110
Phone: 816.822.1331 | Fax: 816.822.1332
Principal: Elyar Isgandarli

Frontier Schools Student Engagement Center (SEC)

1142 East 47th Terrace
Kansas City, MO 64110

Vision, Mission & Core Values

Vision:

Be a vibrant and innovative educational leader

Mission:

Empower students to discover and develop their gifts and talents

- in pursuit of college readiness, productive citizenship and lifelong learning
- within an atmosphere of academic excellence with a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) focus
- to prepare for the jobs projected for American workforce
- meeting the needs of all, including those whose primary interest is non-STEM
- providing flexibility to expand in the future to a STEAM environment by adding an Arts component

Core Values:

- **High Expectations:** We maintain rigorous standards and expectations for our students and support them to reach their full potential.
- **Family and Community Engagement:** We believe that students are successful when families and the community are engaged with the school.
- **Character Matters:** We promote a peaceful, caring and safe community and guide our students to value integrity, be responsible and appreciate diversity.
- **STEM Education:** Our students will graduate with an understanding and appreciation of STEM.

Introduction

At Frontier Schools, our top priorities are the health and safety of our students and staff, as well as the academic and developmental growth of our students.

In response to the continued spread of COVID-19 in the communities which we proudly serve, Frontier Schools is announcing the reopening plan for the start of the 2020-21 school year.

The purpose of this plan is to inform our parents and community about the re-entry process for students and staff when school starts. This plan may be updated throughout the summer and school year as a result of guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the local health department.

Thank you to parents/guardians for providing feedback to us by submitting the end of the parent survey. Based on the survey results, we will allow each family to choose whether to continue learning from home or return to campus for in-person learning for the 2020-2021 school year.

Families who choose at-home learning will have access to the same rigorous, academic environment that they have come to expect from their neighborhood Frontier campus, taught by teachers trained for educating and engaging students in a virtual environment.

Families who choose to send their students for in-person learning will find a safe and organized learning environment that they can feel comfortable sending their child to each day. This includes enhanced health and sanitary protocols, as well as possible adjustments to daily routines to help keep all of our students and team members as safe as possible.

All students will continue to receive the same full academic and support services from their teachers, counselors, and school leaders that they would receive on-campus, including our English-language learners and students receiving Special Education services.

We look forward to partnering with our families to help students continue to grow academically. We understand that any adjustments to the normal school environment or calendar may create unexpected challenges for some families. If you would like to discuss specific needs for your student or family that are not addressed in this plan, please contact your child's campus.

We appreciate our parents' support in helping to keep our schools a happy and healthy learning environment for our students. We will continue to update you promptly if any new, relevant information becomes available.

Instructional Delivery and Attendance

First and foremost, we want to offer parents a choice that works best for their family. Parents can choose in-person attendance or virtual learning for their children and families. Survey results have shown us that we need to have options whether students are physically in school buildings or at home. Based on the family preference, students will receive full in-person or virtual instruction for all five days of the week.

Student/Parent Choice					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Option 1 (Based on the family preference)	In-Person	In-Person	In-Person	In-Person	In-Person
Option 2 (Based on the family preference)	Virtual	Virtual	Virtual	Virtual	Virtual

Parents will be contacted by the school personnel and will be asked their choice by the end of July. If you do not receive a call by then, please contact your child’s school front office to make your choice.

Option 1 - In-Person Instruction:

Students will physically attend the school. Instruction will take place at school in a traditional classroom environment. Frontier will institute a broad spectrum of campus safety protocols once in-person instruction starts (See Health and Safety section).

We will closely monitor the conditions and continue to receive guidance from CDC and local health departments. COVID-19 is highly contagious and parents opting to send their child back to school should be prepared for unplanned school closures deemed necessary by health professionals. When this occurs, **students will receive virtual or hybrid (mix of virtual and in-person) instruction** with their classroom teacher(s) for a predetermined amount of time.

Option 2 - Virtual Instruction:

Students will be assigned a device (Chromebook or iPad) and continue their learning for the first quarter at home with teachers from their school. This option closely mirrors the schedule of a traditional school day, but with teachers and students interacting virtually during the regularly scheduled day (hours will be similar to the student’s school schedule). Instruction could include one-on-one virtual meetings, group or class meetings, live lessons, and pre-recorded videos. Elementary school students may require daily support from someone in the home to maintain the learning schedule identified by the school.

In order for schools to appropriately balance staffing and workloads among teachers and staff, this option is a quarter long commitment. At the beginning of the second quarter, parents will have the opportunity to return their child to the school building.

Health and Safety

To make sure our on-campus learning experience is as safe as possible for Frontier students and staff members, Frontier will institute a broad spectrum of campus safety protocols once in-person instruction starts. Department of Health & Senior Services (DHSS) and the Department of Elementary & Secondary

Education (DESE) created Reopening Guidance for schools in Missouri. The questions and answers below are prepared based on the guidance provided in that document.

How will Frontier Schools screen students for COVID-19?

Frontier Schools will implement a process for daily screening for symptoms of and exposure to COVID-19. Parents and caregivers should screen children for symptoms at home, prior to coming to school. The following conditions are considered symptomatic of COVID-19:

- Fever or chills
- Headache
- Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea
- New runny nose or congestion
- Sore throat
- Cough
- Muscle aches
- New loss of taste or smell
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Close contact with a person with COVID-19 in the last 14 days

Students with symptoms should not attend school and parents should consult their healthcare provider and follow CDC considerations regarding their return to school. For students who are diagnosed with COVID-19, either by a laboratory test or based on their symptoms, return to school is permissible when the student is at least 10 days from symptom onset, has had three days with no fever and has no symptoms. Return to school for children with an alternate diagnosis is at the discretion of their healthcare provider and/or the school nurse. Children with a known close contact with COVID-19 (or an adult with symptoms compatible with COVID-19) should stay home for 14 days from their last contact and until return to school is approved by the local health department in accordance with the CDC guidance. [Click here](#) to review the CDC guidance.

Will schools screen students for COVID-19 onsite?

Children will be visually inspected for signs and symptoms of illness as they enter the school and/or classroom. School leaders may also elect to perform additional symptom or temperature screening at school, but will ensure those procedures do not force bottlenecks at building entry points, creating unnecessary situations where students cannot maintain adequate physical distance from one another.

How will schools screen staff members for COVID-19?

Health data continues to reveal that adults are much more likely to spread the novel coronavirus than children, unlike other viruses (e.g. influenza) where children are more likely to transmit the virus to others. Therefore, school staff members will self-screen at home, following the same protocol listed above for families screening students at home. Schools will also screen staff members upon entry to the building each day, and that screening may include a temperature check.

How will schools screen visitors for COVID-19?

Schools will limit visitors inside the building during the 2020-21 school year. Schools will conduct meetings with families remotely (conference call or videoconference) so parents can continue to engage with teachers (e.g. parent-teacher conferences) and participate in necessary discussions (e.g. Individualized Education Program (IEP) and 504 plan meetings; discipline conversations). If visitors are unable to join a remote meeting or conduct their business without entering the building, schools will

screen the visitor for COVID-19 by asking questions about symptoms and performing a temperature check, and then limit the visitor's movement throughout the school building. A record of visitors inside the school will also be kept, and it will include areas of the school that were visited and the time the visitor entered and exited the building.

What physical distancing measures will schools have in place to protect against the spread of COVID-19?

Schools will assign students to cohorts and limit their exposure to other cohorts within the building. This means that students will stay with the same group of students and adults throughout the day. If classes must rotate, schools will consider rotating teachers, rather than moving groups of students throughout the school building. Schools will also implement and enforce assigned seating, and keep records of those seating charts to assist with identifying close contacts in the event a member of the school community is diagnosed with COVID-19.

Other physical distancing measures:

- Schools will limit the mixing of cohorts of students to the extent possible.
- Students will be spaced as far apart as possible. Six feet apart is best; when that's not possible, schools will make efforts to ensure a minimum of three feet of space between students.
- Desks will be placed facing forward in the same direction so students do not sit face-to-face.
- Schools will place physical distancing markers and cues throughout the building, which will remind and prompt students to remain six feet apart in areas where they are not stationary, such as hallways, cafeterias, restrooms and other locations where lines assemble.
- Schools may require hand hygiene before and after students move from one space to another within the building. Proper hand hygiene information can be found [here](#) and will be shared with students of all ages.

How will physical distancing take place on a school bus?

School bus transportation may not readily allow for physical distancing. However, strategies to reduce contact on buses and risk of infection can include:

- Screening of COVID-19 symptoms at home prior to getting on the bus.
- Encouraging hand hygiene upon boarding the bus.
- Assigning students to seats so contacts are stable.
- Seating siblings together.
- Loading the bus from back to front.
- Encouraging the use of face masks during transport.
- Having windows open when safe and weather-permitting.
- Providing bus drivers and monitors onboard with personal protective equipment, such as face masks and face shields and/or eye protection, as long as these do not impair driving.

- The use of plexiglass or another barrier around the school bus driver area is currently pending approval by the Federal Highway and Traffic Safety Administration.

If our families are able to transport their students to and from school or arrange for carpools, when possible, this will reduce the number of students riding buses.

How will physical distancing take place during meal times?

Schools will keep students in cohorts during meal times and, when possible, have students eat in their classrooms rather than moving through the school building. Schools will consider bringing meals directly to classrooms but will make efforts to ensure nutritional value and appealing menu choices are not sacrificed. For older students, multiple separate lunch periods may be created and alternate locations, such as an outdoor environment or large indoor spaces (e.g. gymnasium), may be used for lunches with proper supervision.

How will physical distancing take place during recess and physical education?

Physical activity during recess and physical education class is important for a child's physical, mental and emotional health. Students will engage in these activities with their primary cohorts (to the extent possible) to reduce the number of contacts. Multiple cohorts could have recess at the same time, as long as they are playing in separate areas of the playground. If possible, individual equipment used during recess and physical education (e.g. balls, jump ropes) will be separated by cohort to reduce the need for disinfecting between uses. If that is not possible, individual equipment will be cleaned between uses. Stationary playground equipment does not need to be cleaned, with the exception of handrails and other high touch surfaces, which will be cleaned in accordance with CDC guidelines (see "cleaning and disinfecting outdoor areas" section [here](#)). Schools will require hand hygiene before and after recess and physical education.

Are there other creative ways schools may arrange for physical distancing?

School leaders will consider leveraging space in innovative ways. Large spaces, such as multi-purpose rooms and auditoriums will be marked and utilized to account for appropriate physical distancing. The risk of transmitting the virus outdoors is much lower, so schools will also consider using outdoor learning spaces more often.

How will physical distancing take place during music class, given the conversation around the higher rate of COVID-19 transmission during singing?

In local areas with ongoing community transmission, chorus and band classes will be controlled. School leaders will be advised that the risk of transmission during music and band classes increases in older grades. When considering music classes, students will remain in cohorts and are appropriately physically distanced. Holding these classes outdoors would be a safe alternative, when possible. When cohorts and/or physical distancing cannot occur, alternative music classes such as virtual instruction, music technology, music theory, and music appreciation will be considered.

Will students wear face coverings?

Face coverings are an important strategy to reduce transmission of the novel coronavirus, primarily by reducing the spread of infection from the wearer to those around. Young children may have difficulty complying with the proper use of face coverings and may have increased face touching, mask chewing,

mask trading, and other behavior that could increase risk of infection. For this reason, continuous usage of face coverings is not recommended for young children.

Older children, such as those in middle and high school (grades 6-12), are likely able to follow guidance regarding proper face mask usage. Thus, the use of face coverings can provide an additional layer of protection against the spread of infection. Face coverings will be considered for all age groups during periods when students are not in cohorts or cannot physically distance (e.g. in hallways or during entry and dismissal periods). As noted above, it is also appropriate for all students to wear masks or face coverings while riding the bus. Schools will consider how to best deliver training to students on the safe and proper use of masks, accounting for the training most appropriate for the age group. School administrators will stay informed about CDC guidance and recommendations on face coverings (see “Cloth Face Coverings” section [here](#)).

Will staff members wear face coverings?

School staff members are required to wear face coverings, as the data indicates COVID-19 transmission is more likely from adult to student, than from student to adult. Face coverings should be worn by staff members at all times when they are in close proximity to students or other staff members. In lecture formats, where the teacher is stationary and appropriately physically distanced from students, face coverings may not be necessary. In some circumstances, such as when working with young children or deaf or hard of hearing students, the need to convey facial expressions and mouth movements is important; in these circumstances, the use of a clear face shield is preferred to no face covering at all. As noted above, bus drivers and monitors onboard a school bus will wear personal protective equipment.