Elementary School COVID Safety Handbook
FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2021 - 2022

Challenger Elementary
Jennifer Kessler, Principal
25200 SE Klahanie Blvd., Issaquah, WA 98029
425-837-7550

Issaquah School District, Elementary Education
5150 220th Ave SE, Issaquah, WA 98029
(425) 837-7025

Our students will be prepared for and eager to accept the academic, occupational, personal and practical challenges of life in a dynamic global environment.

www.issaquah.wednet.edu
https://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/challenger
Welcome

Challenger Families,

This Handbook for families has been created to let you know what COVID mitigation procedures will be in place and what the learning environment will be like at Challenger when students return to in-person learning. Our district website contains additional resources on return to in-person learning and Health and Safety Plans. These are valuable resources that we hope you take time to look through. They contain specific and detailed information about district-wide expectations, procedures, and protocols regarding safety in the school setting.

You can access resources described by clicking here.

Thank you, in advance, for taking time to review our Challenger Elementary Handbook. You will see that we have put forth great effort to ensure student and staff safety and to comply with Washington State and King County Department of Health guidelines and recommendations. We will continue to monitor updates and recommendations from the State and County Health Departments to stay current on our health and safety procedures and protocols.
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Classroom Environment

Upon returning to all in-person learning, students will find that some procedures and physical set up of the classroom may look different than before the pandemic in order to keep everyone safe and healthy. What students and families will find to be the same as what they have experienced in the past, is a warm welcoming teacher who is eager to greet students each day, develop relationships, promote community building and social emotional learning and provide quality instruction in the areas of reading, writing, math with science and social studies integrated into core content areas.

To keep everyone healthy, below are some of the COVID mitigation procedures students can expect to see, and be asked to follow, in their classrooms:

- Students and the teachers will wear masks at all times in the classroom.
- The arrangement of student desks may look different than they may have experienced in the past. Desks will be arranged to allow for physical distancing of about three feet between students as is reasonable and feasible and that allows for all students to attend school.
- Frequent handwashing and hand sanitizing will occur.
- High touch points such as doorknobs and railings within the building will receive continuous frequent cleaning.
- Students are encouraged to bring a personal water bottle. Drinking fountains in the halls and classrooms will be closed.

Attestation

Daily health attestations and temperature checks for each student will no longer be required. However, parents must monitor students at home for any illness or COVID like symptoms and are asked to keep students at home if they are ill. The best way to ensure that that the school environment is free of COVID is to keep students home if they are ill.

Temperature Checks

We will no longer be taking student temperatures before they enter campus.
Arrival Procedures
Challenger will continue to use the back loop for student drop-off and pick-up. This year, kindergarten students will also be permitted to be dropped off and picked up in the back of the school. As always, the front loop is reserved for buses only. Parents who arrive late to school must park in the front lot and walk their child to the front door. Please do not leave your car in the front loop unattended, it is a fire lane. Students may continue to walk/ride bikes to school and can use the front or back playground gates to enter the line-up area. Only students will be allowed onto campus. Parents will say goodbye to their children at the gate before they go to the line-up area.

Please help us keep our students as safe as possible by limiting your time on campus.

- If your child is not feeling well, or if someone in your household is ill, please do not send them to school.
- Masks are required for everyone who comes to Challenger.
- All students’ hands will be sanitized when arriving at school.
- Upon entering playground gates, students will line up on socially distanced spots according to classroom teacher. Students in grades K-4 will line up under cover on the basketball court.
- 5th grade students will line up at their classroom door.
- Only students are permitted to enter the playground gates.

Building Entry
Our goal is to keep student routines as close to normal as possible. We will use the covered basketball court (grades K-4) and classroom doors (5th grade) as our line-up location. Students will enter the building in a specific classroom order.

- Students will be allowed to enter campus starting at 9:00 a.m. Supervision will not be available before this time.
- Classroom teachers will meet students at line-up spots at 9:10 a.m.
- Students will enter, one classroom at a time through designated doors according to classroom location. (For example, students in the 300 hallway, will enter/exit through the 300 hallway door only).
- Students will remain socially distanced while walking to their classrooms.
- Paraprofessional and support staff members will serve as hall monitors to ensure proper spacing between classrooms and students.
- Masks will be worn at all times by students and staff.
Recess/Snacks
We are fortunate to have a large recess space to accommodate our grade level recesses. Our playground will be divided into zones that are familiar to the students. For safety reasons, only one classroom will be permitted in each zone at any given time. At this time, students will not be permitted to cross over into zones to play with students from other classrooms. Recess is always a favorite time for our Comets. Recess will be a time when students are permitted to eat snacks and remove their masks for a short period during the school day.

- Students will have a 20-minute daily recess and may eat snacks while outside.
- Students may only eat snacks they bring from home. The school will not provide snacks.
- No snacks may be eaten inside the building.
- Students exit the building, one classroom at a time, through designated doors according to classroom location. (For example, students in the 300 hallway, will enter/exit through the 300 hallway door only).
- Students will wash their hands with soap and water before eating their snack.
- Students will remain with their individual classrooms in a designated play area each day. Designated play areas will rotate daily.
- Students playing on the open grass field or the open blacktop areas MAY remove their masks at the beginning of recess. Students must put on masks at the end of recess before lining-up. Students playing on the blue or silver toys will keep their masks on during recess.
- If you DO NOT want your child to remove their mask while outside, please inform both your child and his/her teacher.
- Students will follow the same line up procedures as the building entry procedures listed above.

Restrooms
Each classroom will be assigned a designated restroom to use throughout the day. Students will be permitted to go to the restroom, as needed.

- Only two students will be permitted in a restroom at a time.
- Students waiting to use the restroom will stand on designated spots in the hallway until it is their turn.
- Signs will be posted inside and outside the restroom reminding students to wash hands. Paraprofessionals and teachers will also remind students to wash hands.
**Hallway Spacing**
All hallways will be “walk on the right.” Directional arrows have been placed throughout the building to remind students of the proper flow of traffic. Spacing reminders will be placed throughout the building floors to remind students to stay socially distanced while walking in the halls. The amount of travel outside the classroom through hallways will be minimized as much as reasonably possible. Students will mainly travel outside the classroom during arrival, recess, restroom breaks, lunch, to and from specialist classes, and dismissal.

**Water Fountain Use**
Hallway water fountains will not be in use. We encourage students to bring their own filled water bottles. If necessary, students may fill their bottles or use a paper cup to get a drink from the classroom sink.

**Visitors/Volunteers**
While we value our volunteers in so many areas of the work we do in the Issaquah School District, we also have to be mindful of our continued efforts to ensure virus mitigation efforts so that our students stay healthy and are able to attend school and learn in their classrooms as much as possible this school year.

To that end, we plan to phase in our volunteers starting with those that support specific academic and social programming first. These plans are subject to change as we adhere to guidance from the Department of Health for the state of WA and for King County, the Governor’s office and OSPI, for example. Information will be shared when we are able to welcome volunteers and when the phase in begins.

**COVID Supervisor/Back-up Supervisor**
Each building in the district has a COVID Supervisor. This person’s role is to oversee all COVID protocols in each building and to work with district administration on COVID 19 mitigation during in-person learning.

Challenger’s COVID Supervisor is:

Jennifer Kessler
Principal, Challenger Elementary
kesslerj@issaquah.wednet.edu

Challenger’s back-up COVID Supervisor is:

Linda Ogden
Dean of Students, Challenger Elementary
ogdenl@issaquah.wednet.edu
Isolation Room

To ensure safety of everyone in the building, any student exhibiting signs of illness will be taken to an Isolation Room. The Isolation Room is a full-size classroom with medical supplies and cots. Should any student exhibit signs of COVID-19, school administration will contact those in close contact with the student. For privacy reasons, student names will not be given.

- If a student is feeling ill or showing signs of illness, the classroom teacher will notify administration and the school nurse, who will accompany the student to the Isolation Room.
- While in the Isolation Room, our COVID supervisor/school nurse will follow the Department of Public Health COVID-19 Screening Flowchart:

- Any areas of contact will be deep cleaned and disinfected.
**Mask Refusal**

All students and staff are required to wear a mask. However, if a student refuses to wear a mask, they will be asked to leave the classroom to discuss the problem with a staff member. Staff may contact parents to help resolve the issue, if needed. If there is an issue with a student’s mask, a disposable mask can be provided to them. If a student has a documented medical condition preventing them from wearing a mask, please notify the nurse immediately.

**Dismissal**

Dismissal for all students will be at 3:40 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Dismissal for all students will be at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday.

- Kindergarten families should work with their child’s teacher to let them know if he/she will be picked up by car or will walk home with a parent.
- All kindergarten students will be escorted by their teacher to the back loop for parent pick up. Kindergarten walkers will be released to their family members in the back loop. Car riders will wait in socially distanced lines until their parents are able to work their way through the pick up line.
- 1st – 5th grade **walkers** will be released to the front of the school.
- 1st – 5th grade **car riders** will be walked out to the back loop by classroom teachers.

We look forward to having our students return to school. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions you may have.