



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

Elementary School **COVID Safety Handbook**

FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2021 - 2022

Cougar Ridge Elementary

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Welcome Message:

Cougar Ridge Families,

This COVID 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 Cougar Ridge when students return to in-person learning on August 31, 2021. Our district website contains additional resources. 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.

You can access resources described above here: [COVID-19 Safety Precautions](#)

Thank you in advance for taking time to review our Cougar Ridge COVID 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.

Attestation and Temperature Taking:

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.

Arrival to School and Entry Into the Building:

When students arrive at Cougar Ridge in the morning, they may line up outside one of seven entry points they will enter the building through one of seven entry points which is located closest to their classroom. Doors will open at 9:05 am. All students are expected to wear a mask the entire time they are in the school building. All students will wash their hands or use hand sanitizer every time they cross a threshold.

Classroom Environment:

Upon return 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 healthy. What students and families will find to be the same as 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 classroom:

- 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 will be closed.
- Windows in the classroom will be open to allow in as much fresh air as possible.

Specialists:

Students will return to in-person specialists in Music, PE, and Library. Specialist sessions will occur similarly to the past with students attending Music and PE two days per week and Library one day per week. In Music class, students will be provided with a surgical grade mask to wear on top of their own mask if singing will occur.

Lunch:

All students will wash their hands with soap and water prior to lunch. Students will have an assigned seat at lunch in the MPR. Students will be seated in a staggered fashion so they will not be eating directly across the table from another student. Only 6 students instead of 16 will be eating at the tables in the MPR. Optional outdoor seating is available in the undercover basketball area. Spaces 6' apart have been marked to ensure proper distancing outside. Please email your child's teacher if you would like your student to eat outside. The decision to have your student eat outside will stay in place until further notice regardless of the weather.

Recess:

All students will be provided with a 15-minute recess immediately following lunch and an afternoon 20-minute recess. Classes will be assigned to a weekly recess zone and will be paired with another classroom. Masks are not required to be worn outside at recess unless children cannot maintain a safe 6' social distancing (i.e. Big Toy) in which case a mask will be required. Multiple sets of recess equipment will be utilized and will be disinfected between recess sessions.

Snack

A snack break may be provided for students by their teacher or during afternoon recess. All food must be eaten outside. No food may be consumed in the classroom.

Restrooms:

Students will use the restroom that is located closest to their classroom. Students will sanitize their hands, sign out of their classroom, and then head to the restroom. Each restroom will have limited occupancy which will be clearly marked. If the restroom is at capacity, students will wait on markers on the floor in the hallway six feet apart until space is available in the restroom. When finished, students will be expected to wash their hands with soap and water prior to returning to the classroom.

Hallway Spacing: Taped markers are on the floor throughout our school to help students know where to walk and how to properly space themselves from others. Some hallways may be designated as one-way. Students will be asked to stay as close to the wall when passing students going the opposite direction in the hall.

Water Fountains:

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 faucet.

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 Supervisors:

Each school in our district has a designated COVID supervisor. The principal, Mr. Terry, is the COVID supervisor for Cougar Ridge Elementary. The school nurse, Danielle Kolesnikov and the Dean of Students, Dawn Fields are the backup COVID supervisors for our school.

Isolation Spaces:

Isolation spaces will be located outside and undercover near three morning arrival entry points. An additional isolation space will be located inside the building and will only be used in the event of inclement weather.

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 office immediately.

Dismissal:

Students will be dismissed at the end of the school day in a safe and logical order. A staggered dismissal approach will be used. Classrooms will have a designated path to exit the building. Teachers and Paraprofessionals will safely escort students from each classroom at the end of the school day to their designated dismissal location (i.e. walkers out back, bus riders, parent pick-up, and walkers out the front). A rope with 6' markers may be used to ensure social distancing. Students will be asked to wait on a "whisker" in the grass areas or on a line painted on the sidewalk in front of the school until their ride or adult arrives.