



MESA ELEMENTARY

PARENT GUIDE TO REOPENING 20-21



#DreamBIG #WorkHard #MakeItHappen

www.ffc8.org/Mesa | 400 Camino Del Rey Fountain, CO | 719.382.1370

Mesa Practices

WE CONSISTENTLY ADHERE TO SOCIAL DISTANCING



WE WEAR A MASK



WE SANITIZE TO KEEP STUDENTS AND STAFF SAFE



Table of Contents

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL

- TRANSPORTATION
- PARENT DROP-OFF/PICK-UP
- WALKERS
- MASK REQUIREMENT

COHORTS

- DESCRIPTION
- MESA CLASSROOMS
- SERVICES

DAILY SCHEDULE

- RECESS
- REGULAR HANDWASHING
- MASK BREAKS
- SPECIALS

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH

- PRACTICES
- LOCATION AND ACCESS

ATTENDANCE & ILLNESS

- ATTENDANCE EXPECTATIONS
- INFINITE CAMPUS
- REPORTS OF ILLNESS WHILE AT SCHOOL

VISITORS AND ACTIVITIES

- VISITORS/VOLUNTEERING
- TOROTING/CLUBS/ACTIVITIES
- SPECIAL EVENTS

REMOTE LEARNING

- DISTRICT INFORMATION
- DEVICE AVAILABILITY
- DESCRIPTION OF INSTRUCTION/EXPECTATIONS

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- DISTRICT INFORMATION

Arrival and Dismissal

Masked for Entry

- All students will be required to have their mask on to enter the building. Additionally, students will have their masks on at dismissal when moving through the building to an exit. Neck gaiters are no longer allowed to be used as masks (for students or staff).

ALL students will report directly to their classroom upon arrival each day. There will not be access to the cafeteria, playground, or gym. Please reference the drop-off/pick-up document for information specific to teachers.

Bus Expectations

When accessing transportation, the following guidelines and procedures will be in place:

- Face coverings and hand sanitizing are required
- To minimize contact, students will be assigned an individual seat
- An additional adult will be on each bus to monitor health safety practices
- Staff will escort students to and from the bus each day. Buses pick-up and drop-off on the west side of the building.

Car drop-off/pick-up

- Due to increased traffic, drop off and pick up lines may increase.
- Staff will be present on the sidewalk of the main entry and will assist by opening car doors for students to exit.
- Staff will be wearing a mask and gloves.
- Parents are asked to not exit their vehicle in order to keep the line moving as quickly as possible.
- Additional information on pick-up practices will be sent out - determining location of specific classes for car pick-up at the front of the building.

Walkers

- Students who walk home or meet up with a parent who walks to pick them up from school will exit from an exterior classroom door to the east playground.
- Classroom teachers will provide this specific door/location to families at the start of the year. Each grade level has a designated, colored line to wait on at end-of-day.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Cohorts

Elementary learning environments:

- Students will be grouped together and stay together throughout the day (known as a “cohort”).
- Specials teachers and support staff will rotate into classrooms.
- Desks will be spaced further apart in classrooms to allow for social distancing within the cohort.
- Cohorts will eat breakfast and lunch in classrooms with adult supervision.
- Cohorts will engage in outside recess at specific times of the day (see '[daily schedule](#)' for more information)

COHORTING

- Reduces the number of contacts
- Lowers disease risk
- Focuses public health response
- Minimizes school disruptions

Contained response with cohorting

Widespread disruption without cohorting

KEY

- ▲ COVID+ case
- Unknown COVID status
- Group requiring quarantine and evaluation
- Group continuing without disruption

Slide 14 | Q&A | Notes | Home | Capture | TTS | EXIT

CDPE

[Colorado guidance on cohorting from CDE](#)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Daily Schedule

Recess

- All Mesa students will have two recess periods per day. Teachers will also have the ability to take students on a 'walking' break outside at any point in their day.
- The playground will be sectioned to allow students access to specific areas with their cohort. Cohorts will rotate through the sections throughout the week to give students access to all aspects of the play area.
- While at recess, students will not be required to wear masks.
- Classroom equipment bags have been provided to each teacher. Students may choose to use these items during their scheduled recess times. Items will be sanitized every day.

Handwashing

- Mesa students will be provided hand washing breaks through the day. Teachers will build specific hand washing times into their schedule - especially when coming/going from the room for any reason.
- Sanitizer will be available in all classrooms.
- Additional hand-washing stations have been added throughout the building.

Face Coverings

- Required to be worn by staff and K–12 students in all indoor areas
- Scheduled breaks will be provided when students can remove their face covering in an individual classroom
- If students are on a mask break within their cohort room and a 'non-cohort' member enters (i.e. specials teacher, special service provider), students will put their mask back on.
- One cloth reusable face covering will be provided to all students and staff.

Hydration

- All students are asked to bring a refillable water bottle to school.
- Students will be given multiple opportunities through the day to hydrate and refill their bottle.
- Additional water coolers have been added throughout the building.

Daily Schedule

Social Distancing

- Social distancing (3–6 feet) will be practiced as much as possible
- Students will be assigned seats in most areas
- Students will remain in assigned groups (cohorts) to minimize contact with others.
- All rooms have been provided with desks/tables to allow for individualized seating.
- All rugs have been removed from classrooms as 'circle time' on the carpet will not be practiced at the start of the year.

Specials

- All students will have access to Mesa's specials classes of: PE, Art, Music, and Library/Technology.
- Students will attend the same special for one week at a time.
- PE will be conducted outside (mask-free) as the weather permits.
- Art, Music, and Library/Media will be hosted within cohort classes instead of having students travel to and from those locations.
- Any equipment used by a class will be sanitized before use by another cohort.

Special Services

In order to meet student needs, FFC8 special education staff will:

- Work to maintain existing student cohorts where possible.
- Maintain social distancing when students from different cohorts are brought together for small groups.
- Wear a face covering when social distancing cannot be maintained, in accordance with FFC8 health and safety protocols.

Breakfast & Lunch

- Breakfast is served each day starting at 7:05. All students will go directly to their classroom upon arrival at school; breakfast will be delivered to each class for those students who are eating. For lunch, students will receive instructions on how to safely access the cafeteria, go through the line to receive their food, and return to their classroom or outdoor area to eat.
- Students are welcome to bring a lunch from home or purchase a lunch from the cafeteria. No sharing of food will be permitted and students will practice social distancing while eating.
- For more information on breakfast/lunch prices or to make a payment, please use the following link to Aramark Food Services:
<https://www.ffc8.org/domain/54>
- Students will wash/sanitize hands before and after eating.
- Face coverings will be worn in serving line, cashier line, and when not eating.
- Elementary students will eat in classrooms or a pre-designated outdoor space.
- Due to the need to limit visitors to the building at this time, parents will no longer be able to come in and eat lunch with their child.

Attendance & Illness

(Please reference [FFC8 guidelines](#) for more information on staff/student illness)

Attendance

While student attendance is important for building consistent routines, we understand this is a time of uncertainty. Families are asked to please inform the office of any need to have a miss school due to any COVID-19 related circumstances. All absences will be reviewed on an individual basis and families will be contacted if more information is needed in making attendance related decisions.

IC Information

Please ensure all parent information in Infinite Campus is up-to-date. This includes having up-to-date emergency contact information as IC is used as the source of information in communicating with families throughout the school year.

Illness

If a staff member or student becomes sick while at school or begins to exhibit symptoms:

1. A face covering must be put on immediately
2. Isolation will take place in a designated area within Mesa. We have a health worker on site M-F and will work with teachers and parents any time a student requires access to the isolation room.
3. Evaluation will be conducted and documented by a nurse.
4. Mesa will work with staff to determine any individuals they have been in close physical contact with.
5. Supervisors must notify Human Resources immediately if a staff member becomes ill with suspected COVID-19.
6. Supervisors must notify the Deputy Superintendent if a student becomes ill with suspected COVID-19.
7. Students sent home for exhibiting symptoms or awaiting test results will be provided remote learning opportunities while out. This absence will be considered excused.
8. Staff or students will need to remain home until cleared to return to work or school by Human Resources.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Visitors and Activities

Visitors and Volunteering

Schools in FFC8 will limit outside guests, including volunteers, and families will be asked to make an appointment to meet with school staff to reduce the number of individuals in common spaces.

- For the first quarter, Mesa will not be offering volunteer opportunities within the school setting. Parents are welcome to email, Zoom, phone teachers to determine how they may volunteer from home.
- If a parent would like to meet with a teacher or staff member, they are asked to call the office to schedule an appointment (382.1370). Our front office staff will be managing this in order for teachers to devote the entirety of their day to working with and building relationships with students. We highly encourage any/all meetings to take place via teleconferencing whenever possible.

After School Activities

After school events, including tutoring and extra-curricular activities, will not be offered during the first quarter at elementary schools due to the expectation that elementary students remain in a cohort group as much as possible and the need to sanitize and disinfect nightly.

Mesa staff will evaluate the need for any potential virtual options based on individual school needs. Mesa wants to provide as many opportunities to students as possible; therefore, the ability to offer after-school activities will be reevaluated at the end of the first quarter based on the guidance from state and county health departments.

Large scale events, such as back to school nights, curriculum nights and school fundraisers will not be allowed during the first quarter. Mesa staff will explore the possibility of conducting events virtually and will communicate those decisions to the community.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Remote Learning

Remote Learning Possibility

The district has planned for potential shifts that may occur between on-site and remote learning for some or all students during the school year:

- Additional student devices have been purchased so, if necessary, all K-12 students will have a technology device to take home. All Mesa students will have access to a device for all learning.
- Internet connectivity can be supported by the district through the checkout of a hot-spot device.
- The district learning management platform, Schoology, will be utilized by all K-12 teachers. Teachers can create consistent blended learning environments for all students so, whether in-person or remote learning occurs, there will be no disruption to instruction.

If remote learning is needed, students and their families can expect the following:

- Notification from Mesa and/or district
- Classroom instructions and assignments communicated and administered through Schoology
- Regular, daily attendance and engagement in all classes is expected
- Grading practices, assignment completion and student engagement expectations will mirror expectations of in-person learning as much as possible and where appropriate
- Modifications to daily student schedule will be communicated by Mesa staff

Additional Information

District 8 Reopening Plan

[LINK](#)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)