

Circle of Life Academy

RETURN TO SCHOOL FRAMEWORK



2020-2021



SCENARIO 1

Traditional In-person learning for all students

SCENARIO 2

Hybrid Learning with strict social distancing and capacity limits

SCENARIO 3

Distance Learning
Teacher-led instruction at home

9/3/20

Dear COLA Families,

We have received new guidance from our Tribal Council, the Bureau of Indian Education, Governor Walz, the Department of Education, and the Department of Health, regarding the metrics that school districts across the state will use to govern what school will look like for the 2020-21 school year and we want to provide you with a framework, specific to Circle of Life Academy, to better explain our Return to Learn decision making process.

With each model, there presents certain precautions and procedures we will be following, and this framework will illustrate what each model will look like for your child, as well as the school's plan for safety, academics, transportation and other specific areas. As you know, we will start our school year, next week on September 8, with Scenario 3: Distance Learning model and re-assess around 6 weeks. Whatever model we fall under, let me assure you that we will be conducting each with equality, rigor, and fidelity.

While we will face many challenges ahead and uncertainty during these unprecedented times, Circle of Life Academy is committed to providing the best educational experience possible for your child.

Jenna Leadbetter
Superintendent
Circle of Life Academy



DETERMINING A SAFE LEARNING MODEL AT THE START OF THE SCHOOL YEAR

STEP 1

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) will use data from counties to determine a base learning model for Circle of Life Academy

STEP 2

Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) will share county data and the consultative process for Circle of Life Academy to engage with education and public health experts to review their county health data and safe learning plan.

STEP 3

Circle of Life Academy will evaluate their ability to implement required and recommended health best practices.

STEP 4

Circle of Life Academy, in consultation with both White Earth Health and Becker County Health, will determine a learning model to begin the school year and communicate that decision with their school community.

STEP 5

Circle of Life Academy and MDH will monitor the community and school-level impact of COVID-19 on a regular basis. Adjustments will be made to the learning model if needed.

Total number of cases for last 14 days



County population

10,000



14-day county case level rate per 10,000

Learning model Parameters

Number of cases per 10,000 over 14 days, by county of residence	Learning Model
0-9	In-person learning for all students
10-19	In-person learning for elementary students; hybrid learning for secondary students
20-29	Hybrid learning for all students
30-49	Hybrid learning for elementary students; distance learning for secondary students
50+	Distance learning for all students

***Regardless of learning model, Circle of Life Academy, will offer an equitable distance learning option to all families upon request.**

FACE COVERINGS

- Circle of Life Academy will be following [Executive Order 20-81](#) requiring face masks to be worn indoors.
- The use of face coverings will be required by all persons in Circle of Life Academy buildings and on buses, unless certified medical exemption form is completed and provided to the district.
- All students will be provided two cloth facemasks and a plastic face shield.
- Face coverings can be removed only at meal times, or while outdoors when social distancing can be practiced.
- For those with a certified medical exemption, additional precautions may be used, including the use of an alternative shield or barrier.
- A medical exemption form is required for all face covering exemption requests, and must include certification by a physician.
- Students and staff may choose to supply their own face covering meeting the guidelines below.
- Face coverings should comply with the Minnesota Department of Health guidelines, covering the nose and mouth and fitting snugly against the sides of the face.
- Cloth face coverings should be washed frequently and disposable coverings should be used only once.
- Should a student forget a mask or their face shield, a disposable mask will be provided that day.
- Visitors will be limited to only accessing the main entrance/office area and will be required to wear masks.





POSITIVE COVID-19 TEST RESULTS

In the event of a student or staff member testing positive for COVID-19 in the school community, we will utilize the process set forth by White Earth Nation.

Parents, students or staff who do test positive or feel that may have been in contact with a person infected will notify the COLA COVID-19 Coordinators:

- Dean of Students, Mike Bunker
- Superintendent, Jenna Leadbetter

Once notified, the School will first contact White Earth Nation and then contact the Regional Support Team who in turn will contact the Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Department of Education, and the Becker County Health Office to notify the School of their next steps.

A positive test result does not necessarily mean the person was infected in the school setting. The White Earth Nation Emergency Operations Committee and Regional Support Team will make the determination of the next steps.

Potential next steps may include testing, contact tracing, learning model adjustment.

Parents will be notified of a positive test result within the school and be provided recommendations once the White Earth Nation Emergency Operations Committee and Regional Support Team have made their assessment of the seriousness of the case.

Any school that may need to implement a COVID-19 testing strategy will work directly with our White Earth Nation Emergency Operation Committee and Regional Support Team.

The Minnesota Department of Health will provide the COLA with recommendations on when the infected student/staff may return to the school.

Testing Strategies

Routine universal testing is not recommended in schools.

Comprehensive Testing strategies: The Regional Support Teams have a framework and strategy for how to plan for and respond to potential COVID-19 exposure in our school communities.

- The state ensures school and settings are prioritized for COVID-19 testing when close contacts have been identified.
- Regional support teams work with schools to ensure close contacts of an exposure are tested by local providers.
- Testing events are used when 50+ close contacts are identified. When local communities cannot execute their own testing events, the state testing work group steps in to execute.
- School staff and students are prioritized in other available community testing events.

FOOD SERVICE

- For the Distance Learning model, students will receive their lunch for that day and breakfast for tomorrow via our COLA Meals on Wheels bus routes.
- For the Hybrid and In-person Learning models, breakfast and lunch schedules and menus will be adjusted to accommodate social distancing during serving and while in eating area.
- For the Hybrid and In-person Learning models, meals will be placed on trays by Food Service Staff and the point of sale will be touchless. Salad bars will be eliminated and replaced with prepackaged salads at the Middle School and High School.
- For the Hybrid and In-person Learning models, supervision will ensure safety of students during breakfast and/or lunch.
- For the Hybrid and In-person Learning models, meals will be available for pickup at the same price a student would pay in a school cafeteria on school days when the student is not expected to be in school. Meals will be available for pickup from a distribution site.
- For the Hybrid and In-person Learning models, no sharing of food is allowed, including any treats for classroom celebrations.



TRANSPORTATION

- Guidelines from the Minnesota Department of Education for safe and effective school bus transportation will be followed. The district-wide hybrid model will reduce bus riders to 50% bus capacity.
- All students and drivers will be required to wear masks while in school vehicles and required to complete the Covid-19 self-assessment daily prior to riding the bus.
- Students will fill the vehicle starting from the back and fill to the front and exit from front to back.
- Students are only allowed to share a seat if they are from the same household during the district-wide hybrid model.
- Top vents and windows will be open as much as possible. Students should dress appropriately to compensate for additional outside air.
- Bus will unload one bus at a time to avoid crowding.
- We strongly encourage Parents/Guardians, if possible, to provide their own transportation.



BUILDING AND CLASSROOM USE

- Hallways will be divided with one-way traffic per side to limit contact.
- Classrooms will be configured to allow for greater social distancing. Students will have assigned seats, facing the same direction.
- Students are encouraged to bring their own labeled water bottle or cup as only touchless filling stations will be operational.
- Lockers will not be used to store school supplies. Students must carry material in a backpack or bag. Elementary students will leave school supplies in their assigned room.
 - Lockers may be used in the winter months to store coats, boots, snow pants or other outdoor clothing.
 - Gym lockers will still be used to store gym clothes.
- Intake of fresh air through our HVAC systems will be increased.

CLEANING AND SANITIZING

- Cleaning and sanitization will follow CDC and Minnesota Department of Health guidelines.
- High touch points and hard surfaces in the classrooms will be cleaned continuously throughout the school day.
- Bathrooms will be cleaned throughout the day.
- Buildings will be thoroughly cleaned each evening.
- Hand sanitizer will be available at main entrances, in all classrooms and in common areas of the buildings.
- Frequent hand washing by students and staff will be reinforced.
- Reminders for proper handwashing, social distancing and the use of face coverings will be posted throughout the school.

LEARNING SCENARIOS

2020 - 2021 SCHOOL YEAR

Scenario 1: In-Person Learning

- In this learning scenario, our school will create as much space between students and teachers as is feasible during the day but will not be held strictly to enforcing 6 feet of social distancing during primary instructional time in the classroom.

Scenario 2: Hybrid Learning

- Schools will reduce capacity by 50%.
- School work is completed through an in-person and distance learning platform.
- Student schedules limit the number of students moving throughout the building during the day, allow for longer periods of instruction to prepare them for their distance learning day to follow, and limit the number of classes they need to focus on in one day.
- A possible future Hybrid Schedule can be found in the following pages.

Scenario 3: Distance Learning

- All cultural and academic work is completed at home.
- Instruction is taught by a Circle of Life Academy teacher.
- Daily attendance is required.
- On a daily basis, students can expect 4 - 6 hours of instruction, learning activities, daily interaction with teachers, and grades / assessments would count towards an overall grade.
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* Our learning scenario will be continuously evaluated based on a 14-day COVID trend for our county as required by MDH. There is potential for change so families should be prepared for all three scenarios.

FIRST SIX WEEKS; DISTANCE LEARNING SCHEDULES 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

Elementary / High School Schedules

Learner and Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Expectations - Distance learning for *all students* begins promptly at 9:00 a.m. The details for elementary students (K-6) differ from the high school (7-12).

FIRST SIX WEEKS; Elementary (K-6) Schedule Below

TIME	ACTIVITY	EXPECTATION
8:30-9:00	This time will be utilized for Anishinaabe teachings by our Culture team, your social-emotional/physical health team, your Reading/Math Interventionists and your Special Education team.	
9:00-9:15	Attendance check in with your teacher along with a class meeting via ZOOM.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We need to physically see students online to count them for attendance. (Attendance expectations below). 2. Headphones plugged in. 3. Be on time. 4. Mute your microphone. 5. Turn on video. 6. Be respectful & prepared. 7. Raise your hand to speak or ask a question. 8. Stay in ZOOM the whole time.
9:15-11:00	Teacher instruction via ZOOM along with student participation/class work.	
11:00-12:00	LUNCH BREAK	
12:00-1:00	This time will be utilized for Anishinaabe teachings by our Culture team, your social-emotional/physical health team, your Reading/Math Interventionists and your Special Education team.	
1:00-3:25	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Your child should be using this time to work on homework assigned by teachers. 2. OPTIONAL: one-on-one help via ZOOM. 3. This time will be utilized for Anishinaabe teachings by our Culture team, your social-emotional/physical health team, your Reading/Math Interventionists and your Special Education team. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. During this block of time teachers will be on ZOOM. If your child is struggling with homework, this would be the time for them to log onto ZOOM and ask questions with any homework. This time is optional, but we wanted to make it available to our students for any additional help they may need. Once they ask their question, they are free to either stay online or log off.

FIRST SIX WEEKS; High School (7-12) Mondays and Wednesdays

TIME	Grade 12 Seniors	Grade 11 Juniors	Grade 10 Sophomores	Grade 9 Freshmen	Grade 8	Grade 7
9:00 am - 10:30 am	Ojibwe Fine Arts - Alicia Ojibwe Language - Vince Ojibwe Study - Steve Ojibwe Fitness - Mitch	Ojibwe Fine Arts - Alicia Ojibwe Language - Vince Ojibwe Study - Steve Ojibwe Fitness - Mitch	Geometry - Val	ELA - Sheila & Wanda	Earth Science - Doug	Ojibwe Language - Bryce
10:30 am - Noon	Ojibwe Quillwork - Alicia Ojibwe Drumming - Bryce Ojibwe Cooking - Steve	Ojibwe Quillwork - Alicia Ojibwe Drumming - Bryce Ojibwe Cooking - Steve	US History - John	Physical Science - Doug	Pre-Algebra - Val	ELA - Sheila & Wanda
Noon - 12:30 pm	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
12:30 pm - 2:00 pm	ELA - Sheila & Wanda	Ojibwe Sewing - Bev Indigenous Art Exploration - Alicia Ojibwe Traditional Skills - Steve	Ojibwe Sewing - Bev Indigenous Art Explorations - Alicia Ojibwe Traditional Skills - Steve	Algebra I - Val	MN Studies - John	Life Science - Doug
2:00 pm - 3:30 pm	Ojibwe Sewing - Bev Ojibwe Beading - SB / AA Ojibwe Health-Vince Ojibwe Painting - Alicia Chemistry - Doug	Ojibwe Sewing - Bev Ojibwe Beading - SB / AA Ojibwe Health-Vince Ojibwe Painting - Alicia Chemistry - Doug	ELA - Sheila & Wanda	Social Studies - John	Ojibwe Language - Bryce	Math 7 - Val

FIRST SIX WEEKS; High School (7-12) Tuesdays and Thursdays

TIME	Grade 12 Seniors	Grade 11 Juniors	Grade 10 Sophomores	Grade 9 Freshmen	Grade 8	Grade 7
9:00 am - 10:30 am	Ojibwe Drum Building - Bryce Ojibwe Cooking - Steve Ojibwe Robotics - Doug	Algebra II - Val	Ojibwe Health - Vince Robotics - Doug	Ojibwe Health - Vince Robotics - Doug	ELA - Sheila & Wanda	Geography - John
10:30 am - Noon	Economics - John	ELA - Sheila & Wanda	Ojibwe Painting - Alicia Ojibwe Language - Bryce Ojibwe Fitness - TBD	Ojibwe Painting - Alicia Ojibwe Language - Bryce Ojibwe Fitness - TBD	Ojibwe Sewing - Bev Ojibwe Beading - Susie Ojibwe Nature Study - Steve	Ojibwe Sewing - Bev Ojibwe Beading - Susie Ojibwe Nature Study - Steve
Noon - 12:30 pm	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
12:30 pm - 2:00 pm	Ojibwe Drumming - Bryce Ojibwe Language - Vince Directed Study - Val	World History - John	Biology - Doug	Ojibwe Sewing - Bev Ojibwe Beading - Alicia Ojibwe Drumming - Bryce Ojibwe Nature Study - Steve	Ojibwe Traditional Study - Susie Ojibwe Drumming - Bryce Ojibwe Fitness - TBD	Ojibwe Traditional Study - Susie Ojibwe Drumming - Bryce Ojibwe Fitness - TBD

Circle of Life Academy

MISSION



“Our Circle of Life Academy is immersed in Anishinaabe Mino-Bimaadiziwin for our children and community while providing the highest quality of education.”



POSSIBLE FUTURE HYBRID LEARNING SCHEDULE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

ELEMENTARY Student Sample Schedule Group A (Draft)

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
In person-learning	Distance learning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synchronous whole-class opportunities • Online assignments • Onsite intervention support 	In-person learning	Distance learning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synchronous whole-class opportunities • Online assignments • Onsite intervention support 	All students distance learning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Emotional Learning Check-in, Core instruction, interventions and enrichment

ELEMENTARY Student Sample Schedule Group B (Draft)

Distance learning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synchronous whole-class opportunities • Online assignments • Onsite intervention support 	In-person learning	Distance learning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synchronous whole-class opportunities • Online assignments • Onsite intervention support 	In-person learning	All students distance learning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Emotional Learning Check-in, Core instruction, interventions and enrichment
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HIGH SCHOOL Student Sample Schedule Group A (Draft)

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
In-person learning	Distance learning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synchronous whole-class opportunities • Recorded lessons • Online assignments • Onsite intervention support 	In-person learning	Distance learning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synchronous whole-class opportunities • Recorded lessons • Online assignments • Onsite intervention support 	All students distance learning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjusted periods will include instruction, interventions and enrichment opportunities

HIGH SCHOOL Student Sample Schedule Group B (Draft)

Distance learning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synchronous whole-class opportunities • Recorded lessons • Online assignments • Onsite intervention support 	In-person learning	Distance learning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synchronous whole-class opportunities • Recorded lessons • Online assignments • Onsite intervention support 	In-person learning	All students distance learning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjusted periods will include instruction, interventions and enrichment opportunities
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SPECIAL EDUCATION

Programming and Services

Families with students on an IEP will be contacted by an assigned case manager prior to school starting, if your child's IEP needs to be amended. Special Education and related services are based on individual student needs as determined by their individual education program team and as documented in the IEP. Questions regarding your child's 504 plan can be directed to the building principal.

Environments

Access to education will be reconfigured to meet physical distancing guidance while meeting the needs of individual students.

Caseloads

Staff or schedules may be redesigned to provide access to individualized learning to meet IEP and 504 plans.

Communication

Ongoing and systematic communication from school to staff and families will remain a high priority throughout the three scenarios.

EXTRA & CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

MSHSL Guidance

Circle of Life Academy will rely on and implement guidance from the Minnesota State High School League to safely hold activities practices, competition and events when able.

Clubs and Activities

In the future, assuming school can resume in-person or hybrid learning environment, clubs and activities may take place with physical distancing and safety measures in place.

Field Trips

All field trips will temporarily be suspended until further notice.

QUESTIONS/CONCERNS

If you have specific questions or concerns regarding your child's education, please contact one of your building Principals as follows:

K-12 Principal, Lynda Wadena

Office: 218-983-4180

Work Cell: 218-850-8876

Assistant K-12 Principal, David Perry

Office: 218-983-4180

Work Cell: 612-578-6141

If you have other questions or concerns:

Special Education Coordinator – David Perry

Curriculum/Technology Coordinator – Lynda Wadena

School Assessment Coordinator – David Perry

Transcripts and Graduation Coordinators – Lynda Wadena and Matt Meyer

Student Support/Mental Health/Wellness Coordinators – Matt Meyer, Sheila McLeod, and

Willy Ann Heisler-Hoban

Attendance/Truancy Coordinators – Mike Bunker and Loretta Solmon

Athletics/Activities Coordinator – Mitch McLeod

Food Service Coordinators – Grace Jackson and Carol Zortman

Transportation Coordinator – Matt Jensen

Facilities Coordinators – Darwin Shaugabay and Jenna Leadbetter

COVID-19 Coordinators – Mike Bunker and Jenna Leadbetter

All Other – Jenna Leadbetter

New information will be coming out as we progress through this school year.

Changes and modifications may need to be made to the plan as situations, experience, and challenges arise. We thank you for your continued trust and support as we navigate these interesting times. Throughout history and into the future, Circle of Life Academy will continue to put children and families first.