



COLUMBIA FALLS JUNIOR HIGH

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Dear Parent(s),

Welcome to another school year here at CFJH! Although it is not the typical start to school due to COVID and the necessary changes, we are excited to get going! I want to assure you that we have taken precautionary measures in all aspects to create a safe learning environment for your student, as well as our staff. All options of how to best serve our students, families, and staff have been considered and we have not taken these decisions lightly. I feel we have done a fabulous job in creating a plan for a safe and healthy school environment.

There are a lot of changes that I want you to be aware of. This letter does not cover every requirement and practice that was published in the district pandemic plan, but is an overview of some major procedures in our building. I'm sure this letter won't answer all of your questions, but I hope to highlight the major points and procedures.

Face Coverings

Face coverings are required for everyone in the building. I've been asked about the types of face coverings students should use. Cloth face masks or surgical masks are the best option and we recommend those to minimize the amount of droplets. These are proven to work the best. However, other face coverings such as gators, buffs, and bandanas are allowed. Any covering needs to be school appropriate and follow the dress code. If you can have the design on a shirt you can have it on a mask.

Morning Entry

Our school day officially starts at 8:13. The doors will open at **7:50** to start screenings. Please do not drop off your students before then as we will not have staff to supervise and start the screening process. We will not have students outside for recess before school. Students who ride, walk, or get dropped off will use the front doors to enter the building. Bus riders will use the back doors. The screening process will include a temperature check and answering a few simple questions. Students can screen at home through an app and go through a pre-screening line and enter the building quicker. More on that app and system at a later date. Students will then go to "Basecamp" (homeroom/1st period) or eat breakfast and then to class. This entry process will limit large gatherings outside and inside the building since not all students will enter at the same time.

Lunch

All school meals are grab and go. Students will eat in the lunchroom physically distanced. They will have time to eat and also time outside for recess. Each grade level will rotate through lunch to limit numbers and groupings. Students will be able to choose their seat location. This is where they will eat lunch each day so we can limit the amount of contacts students are having.

Recess

Students can take off their masks outside and when they remain 6 feet or more apart. If students choose to be closer to friends they may do so by keeping on their masks. Group gatherings will be limited. Activities will be available. Such as a “walking club” on the track, hopscotch, drawing, etc.

Classrooms

The classroom environment will look different. Students will be physically distanced as much as possible. Masks will be required, but students will be given mask breaks throughout the day. Desk “shields” may be placed in some classrooms if teachers choose to use them as another tool to use to mitigate the spread of the virus.

Class Schedules

Our school has switched to an 8 period day this year. Please check your students schedule on Infinite Campus. Call the school office if you have any questions. Please be patient with us if there are errors on your student’s schedule as we will work to make changes if possible. Also, schedules may change due to teachers needing to switch to remote teaching depending on student enrollment.

End of Day

Our school day ends at 3:25. We will have staggered release times for students to exit the building to try and minimize the number of students in the hallways at the same time.

Miscellaneous

Students will not be able to use drinking fountains. Water bottles will be allowed. Students need to bring a personal water bottle each day. Filling stations will be available, but it would be great if your student could come to school with their bottle filled to start the day.

Backpacks will be used throughout the day. The use of lockers will be minimized. Students can use their locker in the morning, a couple of stops during the day to exchange materials, and at the end of the day.

All areas of the building will have flow patterns that students will learn. Physical distancing will be practiced as much as possible. Floor marking will help with travel patterns and distancing. Hand sanitizer stations will be placed throughout the building. Students will be encouraged to use them throughout the day. Other procedures will be taught to students to try and provide the safest environment possible.

Parents and unauthorized persons **are not allowed in the building starting August 31st**. If you have business that needs to be conducted in the school please call the office to schedule an appointment.

We do not enjoy having to place these restrictions and requirements on our students, families, and staff. However, to mitigate the spread of COVID and provide the safest environment possible, these measures need to be implemented and practiced. I am confident, even though our school year is starting off different, we will have an incredibly positive and successful year!

Open House

Unfortunately, we will not be able to conduct an open house this year. We will be having a “parent university” to provide assistance to parents and students regarding our online learning platforms that we will be using this year. These will be used in the classroom and remotely when needed. Videos will be created to show some of our major procedures as well, such as entering the building. Our teachers will also be creating videos for our students and families introducing

themselves and their classroom. This is not the ideal scenario, but we are going to make the best of it!

Our staff has been incredible in preparing our building and classrooms. Teachers have planned the best learning space possible and are prepared with best teaching practices to help your student. They are participating in professional development to learn and implement best practices for remote teaching and the classroom environment. They have done an exceptional job getting ready for the year!

Please check the district website for updated information, supply lists, and links to our videos. Also, we now have social media accounts on Twitter (@cfjh_wildcats), Instagram (cfjh_wildcats), and Facebook (CFJH_wildcats) that will have updated information. Give them a follow to stay in the know!

If you have a 7th grade student, please get your student's T-Dap immunization done prior to school. Please send a copy of the recorded shot to the school.

On another note, I am extremely excited to join the CFJH Wildcat family! I look forward to meeting you and working with you and your student. I know that working together we will have an excellent school year!

I'm sorry for this extremely long letter, but I felt it was important. Please feel free to contact me with any other questions, comments, and concerns at 406-892-6530 ext. 4009 or email ta_miller@cfmtschoools.net.

Sincerely,
Ted Miller
CFJH Principal
Go Wildcats!

Our mission is to provide a quality education through shared responsibility and a safe supportive environment for all students to meet the challenges of a global society.