



Gail P. Soesbe, Principal  
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5412 SW 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Des Moines, Iowa 50315

August 7, 2020

Dear Orchard Place Parents/Guardians:

We welcome you and your child to our school community. With the pandemic continuing this Fall, we wanted families to be aware of how school will be provided.

We are a school in the Des Moines Public School district and follow the policies of the Des Moines district. We work with the Agency to make adjustments as needed to fit with these policies.

The following will be in place this fall at our school:

- All students and staff will be required to wear masks while they are at school.
- Students will continue to have temperature checks on their units each day and the school staff will also be having temperature checks when they start their day and when they leave at the end of their day.
- We will be social distancing with all student seating 6 feet apart in classrooms.
- All students will receive 3 hours of face to face instruction each day by a certified teacher.
- All students will participate in Remote Learning which ties to their face to face classes. When students are in Remote Learning they will access the courses from their face to face classes on our virtual Canvas program. All work from face to face instruction and from Canvas are graded. Work in Remote Learning is not optional for students.
- High school students in both general education and special education classrooms will take four core classes: math, science, social studies, and English each day. If they pass the course, they will receive one semester credit for the course. Students who attend for less than a full semester at Orchard Place School will have their graded work score reported to their home high school where credit will be determined by their school's registrar.
- All middle school and elementary students will take four classes: math, language arts, science/social studies, and MTSS (an intervention program for math and reading skills)
- All middle school and elementary students will take Art or PE each day.
- We use Standard Reference Grading (SRG) in all of our classes.
- We will hold meetings by phone or virtually with families.
- We will be having conferences at the end of the first term. These will not be face to face conferences. They will be on the phone or virtually.
- Our school district uses Microsoft Teams for our virtual meetings. This is available to download from the internet or can be added to a smart phone. We do not use any other virtual communication programs. However, we do participate in other virtual communications when we are invited to be a part of the meeting.

Sincerely,

Gail P. Soesbe  
Principal

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Think. Learn. Grow.

The Des Moines Public Schools Exist So That Graduates Possess the Knowledge, Skills and Abilities to Be Successful at the Next Stage of Their Lives.