


Merino Jr/Sr High School and Merino Elementary Reconvening School Plan 2021-2022

Mission: Support the vision and mission of Buffalo Re-4J by:


- Putting the needs and well being of our students at the forefront of our decision making.
- Ensuring a safe and healthy environment by following the guidance of the Northeast Colorado Health Department, the Colorado Department of Education, and CDC.
- Promoting access, input, and choice when determining the best course of action for students and families.
- Committing to continuous improvement while we adapt to ongoing changes and guidelines during the pandemic.



At Buffalo School District RE-4J, we are building tomorrow's leaders today by inspiring students to realize their fullest potential through:


- Active Engagement
- Critical thinking
- Meaningful Collaboration
- Positive Societal Contributions
- Recognizing Physical Activity as a necessity for well-being
- Multi-faceted experiences
- Meaningful Relationships

Collaboration




- Vertical Discussions
- Copanning/Coteaching
- Teacher and Student Partnerships
- Goal Setting
- Communication
- Preschool Connection

Wellness




Social & Emotional Health
Nutrition
Physical Activity

Teaching Strategies



- Professional Development
- Differentiation
- Depth of Knowledge
- Implementation of curriculum and strategies
- Visible Learning

Engagement



Shift ownership of learning from teacher to student. Provide opportunities for students to explore and expand their passions.

Merino Elementary School Priorities

Options for Learning:

Buffalo School District RE-4J and Merino Jr./Sr. High School and Merino Elementary School are prepared to provide families with options for In-person learning, Online learning, and remote learning during the 2021-2022 school year.

- In-person learning is defined as ALL students and staff in attendance in the physical school building.
- In-person/Remote Learning Hybrid is defined as students spending part of their school week (2 days) in an In-person learning environment and part of their week (2-3 days) in a Remote Learning environment.

- Remote Learning is defined as students are learning from home for a period of time and will continue to have interaction with their teachers and peers. Depending on restrictions, staff will work from home or school.

Remote Learning days are about:

- *extending learning outside of the school building and not stopping instruction.*
- *continuing to support the social emotional well-being of our students*
- *continuous development on a program that showcases a seamless flow between classroom learning and remote learning*
- Online learning is defined as student learning that will take place completely online outside of the brick and mortar setting. Online learning plans will be based on individual students and families and will be created in partnership with students, parents, and administration of Merino Jr./Sr. High School.

Level 1 and Level 2: In-person Learning Plan:

Our plan as of August, 2021 is to resume school in our district with ALL students present. Parent survey results indicated support for resuming in person instruction in the fall of 2020 and this continues to be the case for the 2021-2022 school year. While we cannot guarantee there will be no remote learning in Merino due to the ever evolving situation of this Pandemic, it is our strong desire to have our students in our classrooms beginning August 16th, 2021 for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year. In order to maintain in person learning, Merino Elementary will abide by the regulations and guidelines set forth by the experts. During In-Person learning throughout the remainder of the COVID-19 Pandemic, students will participate in school for regular school hours (8:05-3:25) in alignment with the district calendar with restrictions in place for the safety and well-being of our students and staff members. These restrictions are subject to change as the situation evolves.

General Requirements and Guidelines:

- Wellness screenings will be conducted for symptomatic staff or students.
 - If an employee or child reports any of the symptoms; fever 100.4 or higher, sore throat, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, muscle aches, new loss of sense of taste or smell, exposed to someone with COVID or with symptoms the following protocol will be observed:
 - The employee or child will be sent home immediately.
 - Increased cleaning of the facility will occur.
 - The employee or child must remain home until they are fever-free (without medication) for 24 hours and 10 days have passed since

their first symptom unless they have a clear alternative diagnosis from a medical provider.

- If multiple employees or children have symptoms, we will contact our local health department.
- Daily and/or frequent sanitation of common areas, such as restrooms and classrooms, will occur following CDC guidelines.
- Frequent hand washing and sanitizing will be encouraged and implemented throughout the day.
- Shared items and supplies will be monitored.
 - Students will be required to bring their own water bottles and take them home daily.
 - Recess and lunch schedules/protocols will be altered to accommodate appropriate distancing.
 - Teachers will schedule wellness breaks according to student needs. Wellness breaks may be taken in the gyms, classroom, or outside.
 - Students will have access to lunch provided by the district or may choose to bring their lunch from home.
- Staff members can choose to wear a face covering unless there is an Executive Order or mandate from the local health department.
- Face coverings for students is at the discretion of the parents unless there is an Executive Order or mandate from the local health department.
- Decisions around field trips, assemblies, and other large gatherings will be made on a case by case basis.

If necessary, due to illness or mandates, increased measures may be implemented to preserve in person learning before moving to Level 2. Those measures may include class cohorting, lunch in classrooms, push-in model for student/teacher support, masks, universal wellness screenings, and/or other recommendations from the Northeast Colorado Health Department.

Level 2: In-Person/Remote Learning Hybrid

This level will follow all of the Level 1 protocol with the exception of there being a reduced number of students in the building. Classes will be split into cohorts to accommodate the capacity allowed in the In-person environment. An example of this model is Cohort A will attend In-Person learning Monday and Tuesday and engage in Remote Learning Wednesday-Friday. In-Person learning will provide students the opportunity to create a learning plan with their teacher, receive instructions, get targeted assistance on specific skills, get questions answered, etc. Cohort B will attend

In-Person learning Wednesday and Thursday and engage in Remote Learning Monday, Tuesday, and Friday. The fifth day will be used for teachers to plan, meet remotely with students if needed, communicate with students and parents, etc.

Social Emotional Support for Students

Merino Jr./Sr. High School and Merino Elementary are committed to supporting the social/emotional needs of our students. Mr. Tharp will be working with students, teachers, and families to support students according to their needs.

Merino Jr./Sr. High School and Merino Elementary are also partnering with Centennial Mental Health and other community resources to promote mental health and wellness for our staff and students, as well as to provide education around the issues that may arise due to COVID 19 and students or staff becoming ill.

Level 3: Remote Learning Plan

See Remote Learning Plan Handbook. Our Remote Learning plan will be implemented in the event that we need to leave school due to a COVID-19 outbreak, a student or groups of students become ill and must stay home for an extended time, or a Stay Home order is issued.

The goals of this plan are as follows:

- *extending learning outside of the school building and not stopping instruction.*
- *continuing to support the social emotional well-being of our students*
- *continuous development on a program that showcases a seamless flow between classroom learning and remote learning*

[Remote Learning Handbook](#)

Online Learning Plan

In the event families make the decision that an online learning plan is best for their students, Merino Jr./Sr. High School is pleased to be able to provide one. This plan is different from our Remote Learning Plan.

Merino Jr./Sr. High School will partner with CDLS (Colorado Digital Learning Solutions), Edgenuity, and/or Edmentum to provide an online learning opportunity for students. Merino Elementary does not provide an online learning option for students.