

Fall of 2020

Parker School District Start Well Return to Learn COVID-19 Plan



Parker School District

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Student Encouragement and Thank You

We realize this year has been uncertain while we all work to navigate the waters of Covid-19 and the daily changes this pandemic brings to us all.

We ask that you are mindful when speaking or referencing remote learning in and around your child(ren). *ICT Learn* stated it well when they posted the following message, “Our behavior and mannerisms will determine our child’s attitude during this time. It is suggested that adults be angry or sad in private. Discuss frustrations away from the kids. We can set our kids up for success by teaching them to make the best of life’s situations. Be a sounding board for student worries and disappointments. Stay positive and model perseverance.” We are all in this together, we can overcome hiccups and will do so with integrity and grit.

A sincere thank you is expressed for the patience and flexibility of all families, students, staff, and community members as we tread these uncertain times. This process is new for us all and will take some creative thinking and fluidity of all involved to make this a stress free, successful school year for staff, students, and their families.

Introduction

The Parker School District has created a plan with our Back to School Start Well Committee to create a safe, caring, and learning environment while reducing the impact of COVID-19 for students, staff, and community/visitors. The guidelines referenced in this plan are from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), World Health Organization (WHO), South Dakota Department of Health (S.D. DOH), and the South Dakota Department of Education (S.D. DOE). The plan will be updated regularly as new information comes in from the CDC, WHO, and applicable federal, state, and local agencies.

The goal of the Parker School District is to start school as scheduled on August 26, with all students in the school building. The Back to School Start Well Committee created a Leveled system approach for our students, staff, and community's safety. The leveled approach will be enacted based on the number of cases we have locally and through guidance from the South Dakota Department of Health and our local health care system. Advice will be provided by the South Dakota Department of Health, South Dakota Department of Education, the America Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and local health care providers to determine if school will have to occur via Flex Learning or Remote learning based on our local community cases.

The AAP strongly advocates that, depending on the extent of COVID-19 outbreaks within the community, children be physically present in school this academic year. As pediatricians they know the importance of in-person learning and have seen the negative consequences in their patients this past spring when school was delivered via an online platform.

The School District has created a resources page for families to access that will walk them through the programs expected of students for Remote learning if needed during the 2020-2021 school year. The resource page will be released to students and families at a later date and time, upon need for distance learning.

[The Parker School District’s main goal is to have students in class, participating in traditional face-to-face lessons.](#)

The most critical component of our Return to Learn plan is a cooperative partnership with parents/guardians, staff, and students, where individuals commit to:

1. Stay home if sick and use our remote learning option when needed. A video explanation coming soon.
2. Practice good hygiene.
3. Practice social distancing when possible and wear face coverings in common areas or when social distancing is not possible.

Parent assistance and best judgement is a critical part in our school staying open as families are asked to screen students each morning and make an executive decision to keep their child home when they are feeling sick.

Identifying Cases in School Questions and Answers ([SD Department of Education and the SD DOH K12 & Covid-19 Document](#))



Household Members Test Positive

Assuming the infected individual did not enter the school, this would not be considered a confirmed case in the school. The student or staff member who lives with the infected individual would be considered a close contact and would be asked to self-quarantine for 14 days. Note: If the student or staff member develops symptoms and/or tests positive while in quarantine, a new case investigation and 10-day isolation period would begin.

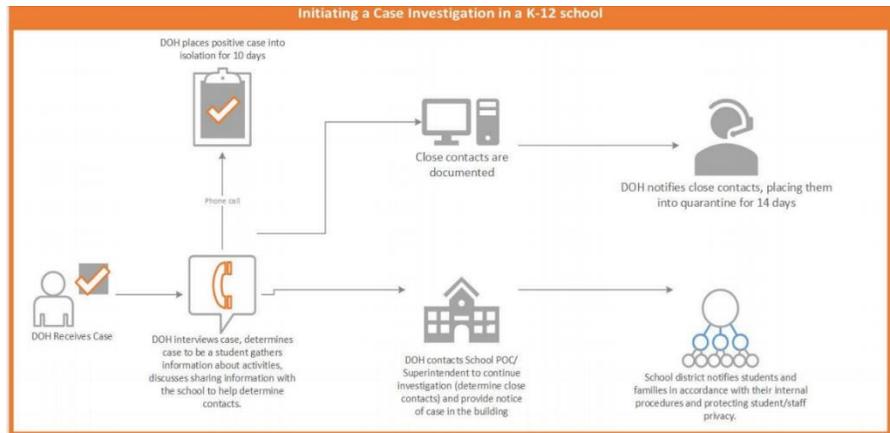
One Student in a Classroom Tests Positive

Each positive case within a classroom will be investigated to determine if other students/staff are close contacts (The CDC defines a close contact as any individual who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 2 days before illness onset or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to positive specimen collection until the time the patient is

isolated.) Close contacts will be notified and will need to complete a 14-day quarantine period to monitor for symptoms.

Close Contact and Positive Case Notification

DOH will alert a school any time one of their students becomes a **positive case**. Through conversation with an infected individual (or a student's parent/guardian), DOH will work to identify close contacts, including school close contacts. **DOH will notify close contacts of potential exposure** and direct the individual to self-quarantine for 14 days from the last exposure. Close contacts will receive a written notification from DOH at the beginning of their quarantine period



specifying their completion date for quarantine. If an individual becomes symptomatic and tests positive during their quarantine, they will begin a 10-day isolation period from the date of their symptom onset.

Notification in the Middle of the School Day

DOH would not recommend school closure mid-day. Dismissal at the end-of-day is appropriate. Currently, CDC recommends waiting 24 hours, if feasible, before cleaning and disinfecting an affected area. Reinforce the importance of mitigation strategies such as social distancing, hand washing, symptom screening, cloth face coverings, etc.

Negative Test Result During the 14 Day Quarantine Period

If a student tests negative during their quarantine period, the individual still needs to remain in quarantine until 14 days have passed since their last exposure.

DOH Delay in School Notification Process

For close contact, **DOH alerts individuals directly**. It is up to the individual identified as the close contact to let the school know of this status. For a positive case, DOH will contact the school. An individual may receive notification of a positive case from their healthcare provider sooner than the DOH receives notification of the case. It would be advisable for the school to excuse based on the report from the parent, as DOH notification may be delayed.

Staff members will be expected to have classroom AND lunch seating charts as well as copies of classroom schedules readily available and stored in the [Office Covid-19 Classroom Communication Google File](#) for the office staff to quickly be able to communicate with the S.D. DOH when they call inquire about specific cases.

Violation of Public Health Order

The school should work through the DOH person working the case to obtain a public health order. If the child continues to come to school after testing positive for Covid-19 they will be in violation of the public health order, the school may notify their local law enforcement.

We encourage staff and students to stay home if they are feeling ill or have symptoms, regardless if it is Covid-19 related or not. All classes will be live streamed providing students with access to the remote learning platform even if they are home for one day at a time due to illness or uncertainty of coming to school if they have symptoms and are in fear of infecting others.

Returning to School After A Quarantine Period

The Department of Health will alert the school of any student or staff member who has tested positive. The S.D. DOH will not alert the school when an individual is released from isolation or quarantine. S.D. DOH will provide a letter to positive cases who complete their isolation period indicating they can return to school. The S.D. DOH will also provide a letter to the close contacts at the beginning of their quarantine period which will identify the completion date for quarantine. **Parents will be responsible to provide these letters to the school.**

ISOLATION or QUARANTINE

Isolation and quarantine help protect the public by preventing exposure to people who have or may have a **CONTAGIOUS DISEASE**.

ISOLATION separates sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick.

QUARANTINE separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick.

ISOLATION

Isolation is for people who are **ALREADY SICK**.

QUARANTINE

Quarantine is for people who are **NOT SICK**, but may have been exposed.

Students and staff cannot test out of quarantine, meaning the required 14 days will be fulfilled regardless of the number of negative tests.

Safety of Students, Staff, and Community/Visitors

Students

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) are the first line of defense in assisting schools with identifying students who have a temperature above 100.4 degrees and/or are ill. The Parker School District is asking parent(s)/guardian(s) by referencing the [symptom checklist](#) at home before sending students to school. Any student, with a temperature above 100.4 degrees, will be asked to stay home for 24 hours.

Home Screening

- **Symptoms**
 - Temperature 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher when taken by mouth
 - Sore throat
 - New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing
 - Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain
 - New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever
- **Close Contact / Potential Exposure**
 - Identified as a close contact to a confirmed COVID-19 case (15 minutes or more within 6 feet or less)
 - Had close contact with a person under quarantine
 - Traveled to or lived in an area where large numbers of COVID-19 are reported (New cases exceed rate of 100 cases per 100,000 population in the past week)
 - Live in areas of high (substantial) community transmission while the school remains open (<https://doh.sd.gov/news/coronavirus.aspx>)

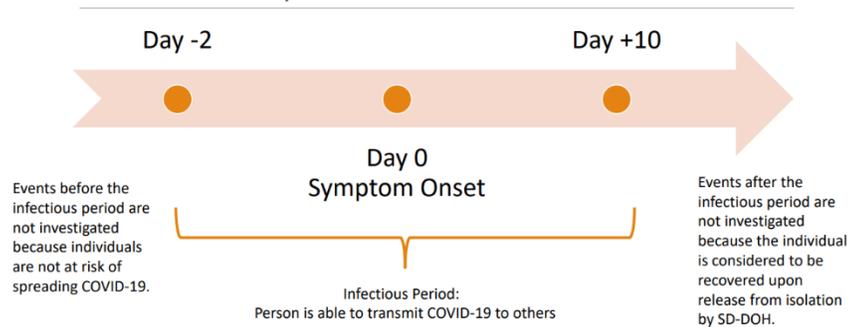
RED Symptom Alone = Exclude until 24 hours after fever resolves

BLUE Symptom Alone = Exclusion for COVID-19 not necessary. Follow existing school policy

GREEN exposure + **RED** or **BLUE** Symptom = Exclude until test result is negative OR if untested, at least 10 days since symptom onset (and 24 hours without fever AND symptoms improved)

Students who become ill during the school day will be sent to the main office, have their temperature checked, and be screened given the questions found within the symptom checklist above. The student will be given a mask, parent(s)/guardian(s) will be contacted, and the student will be isolated in one of our private areas within the building until the student can be picked up.

When can a person transmit SARS-CoV-2?



Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)

Masks are recommended for students and staff. Parker School District cloth masks will be gifted to each student as soon as they are available. Disposable masks are available if needed. Families are asked to help launder the masks on a regular basis. Students and staff will be encouraged to wear masks responsibly when social distancing is not possible, without distractions to individual learning environments. Congested areas consist of common areas such as PE, Music, Hallways...



If a student struggles to wear his/her mask respectfully the [Protocol for Face Masks](#) will be implemented which states:

If a student continuously misuses their face covering:

1. Parent(s)/guardian(s) will be contacted
2. Parent(s)/guardian(s)/student will be given the option to either remain in school without their face covering, or the student will be sent home upon contact and permission of parent/guardian.

Staff

Staff members are encouraged to take their temperatures at home and reference the [symptoms checklist](#) upon entering the building each day. If a staff member has a temperature above 100.4 degrees, they must stay home until their temperature is below 100.4 degrees for 24 hours. Staff members are encouraged to wear masks in high traffic areas and while working closing with a student. Staff are also encouraged to practice social distancing throughout the school day as much as possible by maintaining a distance of 6 feet from students and staff members.

Community/Visitors

Community members and visitors will not be allowed into the classrooms or areas outside of the office areas during the school day. If community members or visitors want to come into the school, they need to be approved by the school administrator and adhere to the same screening and temperature checks as the students and staff. Visitors are encouraged to refrain from partaking in school lunch with their student(s) at this time.

Preventative Student Education

Students will have time in their school schedule to accommodate hand washing/hand sanitizing procedures during the school day. All classrooms and grade levels will have frequent sanitizing of shared areas after use by students and staff. Posters for correct hand washing and hand sanitizing procedures will be on display throughout the building.

General Disinfection Measures Protocol



Our goal is to establish and maintain a sanitary baseline throughout the school year. The site has been 100% disinfected and continues to be cleaned and disinfected daily. Please reference the [Parker School District Return to Learn Plan](#) for a more detailed layout of our flexible Leveled process.

Category	Area	Frequency
Workspaces	Classrooms, Offices	At the end of each use/day
Appliances	Refrigerators, Microwaves, Coffee Machines	Daily
Electronic Equipment	Copier machines, Shared computer monitors, TV's, Telephones, keyboards	At the end of each use/day and/or between use
General Used Objects	Handles, light switches, sinks, restrooms	At least 4 times a day
Buses	Bus seats, handles/railing, belts, window controls	At the end of each use/day
Common Areas	Cafeteria, Library, Conference rooms, Gyms, Common Areas	At the end of each use/day; between groups

Bus Drivers/Bus Protocols



Bus drivers or custodial staff must disinfect the buses at a minimum:

1. After the morning route
2. After the afternoon route
3. Bus drivers will be encouraged to wear masks

Face masks are recommended on Parker School District busses for students. Students will have assigned seats and families will sit with each other on the bus. Bus windows will be opened when applicable to increase the movement of airflow on the bus.

Student Meals

Traditional breakfast and hot lunch will be served daily with individually wrapped condiments. Student lunch and recess periods will be staggered in efforts to lower the population in the cafeteria. Additional tables have been purchased and may be set-up in other areas to increase social distancing. Please reference the [Parker School District Return to Learn Plan](#) for a more detailed layout of our flexible Leveled process.

Extracurricular Activities

SDHSAA and S.D. DOH guidelines will be followed for all extracurricular activities. Activities will be canceled if level 3 of the Parker Return to Learn Plan is in action due to student illness.

Activities will take place as scheduled if remote learning is activated for a period of time due to staff illness.

Spectators (staff, students, and families) are encouraged to wear masks while attending school events and visiting other schools. While participating in activities, students and staff will adhere to the home team's Covid-19 protocol and procedures.

Locker Rooms

While in locker rooms, students are to practice social distancing, which means attempting stay 6 feet from others as a normal practice. Eliminate contact with others, such as handshakes. Avoid touching surfaces touched by others to the extent feasible. Avoid anyone who is coughing, sneezing or appears to be sick. Masks are recommended in confined spaces.

Special Education

The Parker School District will continue to provide educational opportunities to the general student population during a school closure. The school will ensure students with disabilities also have equal access to the same opportunities, including Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). Students with a disability can be provided special education and related services identified in the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) developed under IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Plan), or a plan developed under Section 504.

“If a child with a disability is absent for an extended period of time because of a COVID-19 infection and the school remains open, then the IEP Team must determine whether the child is available for instruction and could benefit from homebound services such as online or virtual instruction, instructional telephone calls, and other curriculum-based instructional activities, to the extent available.” (*SD DOE; Providing Services to Students with Disabilities*).

[SD Department of Education's Guide for Special Education](#)

Social Emotional Wellbeing of Students and Staff

The social and emotional well-being of students and staff is always a priority. The Parker School District staff will receive in-service training by our ACES Committee members on *Trauma and*

Returning to the Classroom after Remote Learning. The school district will continue to work with our mental health professionals, ACES Committee, and counselors to provide families and staff with up to date, accessible resources when needed. Staff will work with parent(s)/guardian(s) and students individually or in a group setting to assist with students' social and emotional wellbeing.

Staff Training

Our plan is to provide a more effective and efficient remote learning opportunity for students if the need arises. Staff members will utilize the *Learn from Home* landing page to communicate remote learning agendas/materials with students and families. Links to staff email, websites, Planbook, and classroom platforms such as Google Classroom will be located on the landing page for ease of access to remote learning material. Staff will be provided with in-depth training during in-service times at the start of the year.

Beginning of the School Day and End of the Day Procedures

School doors will open no earlier than 7:40am on school days. Elementary students will immediately enter the building, wash their hands, and report to their classrooms in attempt to maintain social distance and accommodate the CDC and S.D. DOH guidelines.

Dismissal times will take place at various intervals at the end of the day to adhere to social distance protocols.

Explanation of Level System ([click the link to view a detailed version of the *Parker Return to Learn Plan*](#))

The school district will enact the *Parker Return to Learn Plan* when a case of COVID occurs within a school building. The administration will work with S.D. DOH and our local health care providers to determine the best course of action within our school district. If the number of cases increases, the school district will move over a level unless more prevention is needed, based on the advice from S.D. DOH and our local health care providers. The school district administration will decide on what level we will implement based on the number of cases in our area and the recommendation of S.D. DOH and our local health care providers.



Level 0: Zero cases in our community. S.D. DOH recommends school remains in sessions. Staff and students are to follow guidelines provided in the *Parker School District Return to Learn Plan*. Masks are recommended for students and staff in common areas or while working in close proximity to one another.

Unfortunately, parents will not be allowed in the buildings for drop off or pick up of students. Outside visitors will not be allowed in the building unless approved by the administration.

Traditional breakfast and hot lunch will be served daily with individually wrapped condiments. Student lunch and recess periods will be staggered in efforts to lower the population in the cafeteria. Additional tables have been purchased and may be set-up in other areas to increase social distancing.

Level 1: Case(s) have been identified in our community by the S.D. DOH but not in our school. Meaning students/staff members have been identified as being in close contact of a positive Covid-19 case outside of the school community. The S.D. DOH recommends school remains in session and to follow guidelines provided in the *Parker Return to Learn* plan. Masks are recommended for students and staff in common areas or while working in close proximity to one another. Increased social distance will be used where applicable. Traditional breakfast and hot lunch will take place (see above).

Level 2: Students/staff members have been identified as a positive Covid-19 case. S.D. DOH recommends that school officials reassess processes looking for gaps in prevention strategies. CDC and S.D. DOH will recommend closing off areas used by the sick person and waiting 24 hours (if feasible) before cleaning and disinfecting. S.D. DOH will contact school administration for further instruction and contact tracing information. S.D. DOH recommends that schools may stay open and follow guidelines provided in *Parker School District Return to Learn Plan and Process*.

Possible closures:

1. Same grades only
2. Wings of the school
3. Students only
4. K-6 only, or 7-12 only
5. 72-hour cleaning cycles
6. 14-day quarantine cycles

Students and staff may be required to wear a mask in situations administration deems necessary. Traditional breakfast and hot lunch will take place with the use of disposable products; trays and silverware (see above). If social distancing cannot occur, lunch services will be provided in the classroom. The administration may determine that some classes will eat in their classrooms if needed to try and adhere to social distancing recommendations from the CDC, WHO, and S.D. DOH. Staggered bus routes may take place to limit the number seating on the bus.

Level 3: Multiple active positive COVID-19 cases in our school within 14 days of the first active identified case. S.D. DOH recommend school officials review data to understand levels of spread within the building. S.D. DOH will guide Parker School District in Coronavirus contact tracing and further decision making. The Parker School District and the S.D. DOH will examine data and recommend closure of the school for a time appropriate with the situation.

Options for remote learning attendance:

1. All staff report to school, students do not; remote learning will be accessed through the Parker School District's *Learn from Home* landing page.
2. Facilities will be closed to everyone.

The Parker School District will remain in Level Three until positive cases have been determined to no longer be contagious, the amount of quarantine days have passed, no other positive cases have been covered and the S.D. DOH has been contacted for guidance and recommendations.

Academics and Home-Based Learning Expectations

When the school district determines, through advice from S.D. DOH and our local health system, the use of remote learning or students that have chosen remote learning, students are expected to

have their materials done on time. That means during each “virtual” school day, a new lesson will be presented for the students. Students are expected to attend live online classes during their scheduled class time.

If reliable internet service is an issue for participating in online instruction, families can make accommodations by contacting the school offices.

Remote Learning Expectations

Students may opt for face-to-face or remote learning instruction from home. Students selecting the remote learning format will be required to complete one quarter of distance learning. The model for receiving education, whether face-to-face or virtually will be reassessed after each quarter.

Students will also be expected to log into virtual class sessions following their individual course schedule given the first week of school or found within the DDN Campus portal.

Families are to notify the Parker School District by **August 10th** if they wish to participate in distance learning.

K-4 Remote Learning

K-4 Remote Learning Format

When the Parker School District is in level four (remote learning instruction) students are expected to attend online classes according to the K-4 remote learning schedule. Students opting to participate in Remote Learning vs face-to-face instructions will commit to one full quarter at a time. Following each quarter, students will be given an opportunity to change their mode of instruction.

Everyone will use the same starting point to access Remote Learning materials:

1. Learn from Home Landing page
2. Click Class Information
3. Teachers will follow a similar K-4 Remote Learning Format similar to this [example link](#).
4. A link to the Google Classroom or preferred teaching platform will be available at this location.

K-4 Grading Policy/Attendance/Instructional Hours

Students are to complete their assignments and be in attendance for each course whether they attend school in the face-to-face or virtual learning setting. The grading policy will remain the same and can be found in the student handbook. Students are determined to be truant if they are not completing their assignments (face-to-face or virtually) or if they do not schedule and attend their mandatory missing work appointment with their teachers.

The expectation is that schools will be able to meet the minimum hour requirements of SDCL 13-26-1, whether through face-to-face learning, remote learning, or some combination thereof. When calculating instructional hours, these remote learning days count the same as a day of instruction and should be recorded as such in the student information system.

K-4 Parent Updates

Parents will be notified of their student(s) progress by Friday of the current school week (could possibly fall on a Thursday).

K-4 Classes/Lesson Plans

All grade levels will access the *Learn from Home* landing page to collect material for the school day. The page will have links to provide the student and parent(s)/guardian(s) with a list of the teacher's classes or subjects that they teach. Students and parent(s)/guardian(s) can click on each link for the daily lesson in their classroom. Each day will have the standard the student will learn, the video link for the class that day, and the assignment.

5-12 Remote Learning

5-12 Remote Learning Format

Students in grades 7-12 are expected to attend live online classes according to their scheduled class time. Students opting to participate in Remote Learning vs face-to-face instructions will commit to one full quarter at a time. Following each quarter, students will be given an opportunity to change their mode of instruction.

Students in grades 5 and 6 will follow a remote learning schedule developed by their teachers.

Everyone will use the same starting point to access Remote Learning materials:

1. Learn from Home Landing page
2. Click Class Information
3. PlanBook
 - a. A link to the Google Classroom or preferred teaching platform will be available at this location.

5-12 Grading Policy/Attendance/Instructional Hours

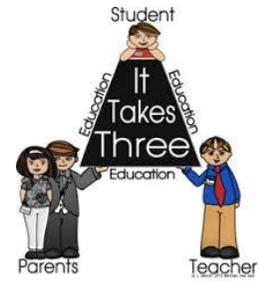
Students are to complete their assignments and be in attendance for each course whether they attend school in the face-to-face or virtual learning setting. Students in grades 9-12 must complete assignments and be in attendance to receive credit. The grading policy will remain the same and can be found in the student handbook. Students are determined to be truant if they are not completing their assignments (face-to-face or virtually) or if they do not schedule and attend their mandatory missing work appointment with their teachers.



The expectation is that schools will be able to meet the minimum hour requirements of SDCL 13-26-1, whether through face-to-face learning, remote learning, or some combination thereof. When calculating instructional hours, these remote learning days count the same as a day of instruction and should be recorded as such in the student information system.

5-12 Parent Communication

Students must complete their work in each class. Teachers will communicate grades/missing work via email grades 5 and 6. Students and parent(s)/guardian(s) in grades 7-12 are to check their student(s) grades using DDN Campus. Parents will be notified of their student(s) missing work by Friday of the current school week (could possibly fall on a Thursday).



5-12 Classes/Lesson Plans

All grade levels will access the *Learn from Home* landing page to collect material for the school day. The page will have links to provide the student and parent(s)/guardian(s) with a list of the link for the daily lesson in their classroom. Each day will have the standard the student will learn, the video link for the class that day, and the assignment. Please allow teachers time to get these materials uploaded each day for your child(ren) as some videos will be posted after the recording of the first live class period.

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

- Will the Parker School District start on time?
 - Yes, the start date will be August 26th for face-to-face instruction and optional remote learning. As of August 3rd, 2020 we will be operating on level 0 of the [Parker Return to Learn Plan](#).
- Will the Parker School District require masks?
 - Masks are recommended. One Parker Pheasant cloth mask will be gifted to each student when the masks become available. The Parker School District will support staff and students who wish to wear face coverings in accordance with the protocol mentioned above in this document.
- Will the Parker School District offer a remote learning option for students?
 - Yes, remote learning will be offered for students and families who feel their student(s) are more comfortable learning from home. However, the remote learning model will be much more structured than the spring of the 2019-20 school year. Please see above for remote learning rules and guidelines.
- Will athletics and extra-curricular activities be offered?
 - Yes, we will be using the SDHSAA guidelines to monitor participation in athletics and activities. The athletics and activities schedule will be a fluid document; travel decisions will be made on a weekly basis. Masks will be recommended while attending home and away events.
- Will the Parker School District be offering traditional hot lunch?
 - Yes, school lunch will be an option regardless of the level we are currently operating at during that time. The location within the building and the type of meal served may vary depending on the level the Parker School District is in at that time.
- How many cases will it take to change levels in our plan?
 - The SD DOH and CDC does not place a number on positive Coronavirus cases as a determining factor when changing levels of district learning strategies. The Parker School District will use community data trends, hospitalizations, positive

case numbers, and guidance from SD DOH to determine when we change levels or when we go to a remote learning model.