

## **April 2021 update to student social distancing rules**

As the pandemic continues, and in fact has surged in Michigan this month, the school's resolve to continue safe in-person education remains one of our strongest commitments. Faculty and staff recognize the challenges of enforcing social distancing in our school because these rules seem fundamentally opposed to how our school aims to foster close social connections among our entire community. However, safety during the pandemic is our top priority right now, and we need to all be supporting the following rules which are based on recommendations from public health experts. Faculty and staff can issue a "pink slip" to high school students for violating these rules. Flagrant or repeated violations will result in parents being called and students being sent home and possible additional disciplinary consequences.

Please review all the following rules. The three biggest changes are the following:

- LUNCH AND BREAK TIMES ARE SHORTER
  - STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO GO OUTSIDE TO EAT FOOD
  - STUDENTS MUST STAY IN THEIR POD AREAS OUTSIDE. WE HAVE NEW TENTS AND CHAIRS TO ACCOMMODATE EVERY STUDENT IN EVERY POD
- 
- Students must wear a mask indoors at all times, unless they are seated and eating/drinking, which should only be for very brief intervals. Students should not graze through meals with their masks off.
  - Students may not sit on the floor at any time, including class time. Please find other ways to show examples, complete work, and have conversations that do not include sitting on the floor.
  - Students may not gather around another student's desk or sit on another student's desk.
  - Students must maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from other students at all times while inside the building.
  - Students may not gather around the door of another pod or be in the physical space of another pod, whether in a separate room or the main lesson room.
  - Outside, students in groups must keep their masks on except when eating. Groups of students eating together should be seated and at least 6 feet apart and replace their masks when finished eating.
  - Students are encouraged to eat their snack and lunch outside, and they should be seated in their pod area to eat. Students cannot walk around while eating.
  - Outside, each pod needs to stay in their designated pod area.
  - While talking with students from another pod students should remain masked and distanced, even outside.

- Mask break: Students may remove their mask for a break if they're on their own outside and not speaking with other students. Students should be allowed to go outside for short mask breaks when it does not disturb class or their learning.
- Students should not face one another while eating or drinking
- Bathrooms:  
Students may not congregate or remove masks in any bathroom. Only one person from a pod may use the bathroom at the same time. There is a limit of TWO PEOPLE per bathroom at any one time. If there are already two people inside the bathroom, students should wait outside the bathroom entrance until one person leaves. Students should be sure to keep the six feet distance while waiting.
- Remember that there is a bathroom in the Stone House that students may use.
- Front office:  
Students may not gather around the front office. If there is a queue of students who need a health screening, only two students at a time may wait inside. Others must wait outside until their turn.

Every student will be responsible for following these rules, and every teacher and staff member, full and part-time, should take action and intervene whenever a student is not meeting these rules. If a student immediately corrects their behavior and it does not reoccur then the teacher can move on. For students who refuse, argue, or immediately return to the inappropriate behavior they should be sent to the front office for a pink slip. The pink slip will be responded to by a school coordinator, or Siân Owen-Cruise or Gary Banks, and if they gather three pink slips their parents will be called and the student sent home. Seventh and Eighth grade students' consequences are yellow cards - and faculty wishing to reprimand a 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grader needs to involve Rob White or Maria Mack.