

Dear Beitel Families:

This is another in a series of messages about protocols for reopening our school. I have several more of these to share. Each is meant to provide details and context for decisions. For those of you looking for a "bottom line" bulleted message, I'll have all of this summarized by next week.

Today's message is about Lunchtime.. For these and other topics, it's important to remember that we're re-working our processes for two primary reasons: To keep adults and students safe, and to keep schools open.

Students will eat lunch half the time in their classrooms and the other half in the lunchroom. We'll rotate this every few weeks so that kids have both experiences.

Classrooms are already set up to be socially distant. If students are buying a lunch at school it will be delivered to them in the hallway outside their room. Those bringing their lunch will have what they need in their desk or backpack. A monitor will supervise lunch in each room and facilitate hand washing and transitioning to recess.

Our lunchroom has been re-worked to include seats for 40+ socially-distant students. This means three students at each lunch table. Kids will only be in the lunchroom with other kids from the same grade. We'll also liberally use our grassy areas outside of the lunchroom while the weather is nice. Two monitors will supervise this group and facilitate hand washing and the transition to recess. Kids who are buying lunch will pick this up outside their classrooms and proceed to the cafeteria. Kids who bring their own lunch will pick this up from their classroom and return lunchboxes, etc., to their room afterwards.

First grade, third grade, and fifth grade will go to recess before lunch. Kindergarten, second grade, and fourth grade will go to lunch before recess.

In order to reduce the size of groups, maintain social distance, and to limit the amount of students interacting, it has been necessary to spread out our lunch times. Grades that have a later lunch will have a snack time at some point in the morning. Our lunch schedule looks like this:

- **KG- 11:00**
- **1st- 11:20**
- **2nd- 11:50**
- **3rd- 12:10**
- **4th- 12:40**
- **5th- 1:00**

[A few more details about lunch:](#)

- Early versions of our district re-opening plans indicated that kids should not bring a lunchbox to school. This is no longer the case. Bring what you need.
- During the pandemic students will not have access to microwaves.
- Touching other people's food is never OK. This is especially true now. Hands to yourself!
- Sharing food is also not acceptable in our current situation.
- Sadly, parents and visitors will not be allowed to join us for lunch. We look forward to the day when this can happen again!

Sincerely,
Loren Engel
Beitel Elementary Principal