



FENTON CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Updated Masking Guidance

August 16, 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year! We hope you had an enjoyable break with your loved ones and are as excited as we are to begin the new school year. We want to acknowledge the partnership we have with our community to make Fenton a destination school where all members feel like family. Despite the many challenges we have all experienced, we have been able to work together in unity to support, educate, and empower one another. Here are a few highlights as we begin the school year.

Public Health Guidance

We are pleased to see the dramatic decrease in COVID-19 cases continue to decline across the state, LA County and among our schools. The Fenton Charter Public Schools will continue to follow the guidance from the Los Angeles Department of Public Health (LADPH) in LA County. The following is an overview of the most recent guidance.

COVID-19 Response Team and Control Plan

- Protocols remain in place for isolating and identifying exposures
- Fenton will continue to follow Health Officer Orders and School Protocols
- Contingency plans remain in place for large scale outbreaks

Masks

- Following LADPH guidance, masking is strongly recommended, but not required
- Available KN95, N95, or surgical masks to employees and students upon request
- Staff with COVID who test out of home isolation after Day 5 must wear a highly protective mask around others through Day 10
- Exposed need to mask indoors for 10 days after exposure

COVID-19 Response Testing

The Fenton Charter Public Schools will implement “response testing” protocol using Rapid Antigen Tests. Response testing refers to providing an Antigen test only to individuals who have present symptoms or who have been exposed to a confirmed positive case. Fenton will provide Rapid Antigen Tests to employees and students upon request. Response testing will take place in lieu of weekly asymptomatic PCR testing that took place during the 2021-2022 school year.

COVID-19 response testing will be required for:

- Individuals who are symptomatic, or
- Individuals who have been determined to be close contacts of someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, or
- Individuals who tested positive for COVID and need to return from isolation early (after Day 5).
- Fenton will provide Rapid Antigen Tests to employees and students upon request

In addition to following safety protocols by the CDC and LA County Department of Public Health, Fenton has used our collective skills and experience to provide superior safety in our classrooms. Each Fenton classroom will be equipped with the latest technology and software to enhance instruction. Air filtration has been upgraded with MERV-13 filters and a premiere hospital room grade air purifier is in every classroom. We have hired a significant number of teachers to reduce class size for the safety of our students and staff.

Sanitization

All classrooms, offices, and common areas will continue to be cleaned and sanitized on a regular basis. Classrooms will be provided hand sanitizer and personal protective equipment. Our cleaning and sanitization teams have been trained in the necessary cleaning and sanitization protocols.

Air Filtration

Fenton follows The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) standards for air quality. Fenton uses the highest-grade filters compatible with our HVAC systems (MERV- 13 Filters). ASHRAE recommends keeping CO2 levels indoors between 800 and 1,100 parts per million (ppm) while operating in a COVID environment. Fenton consistently maintains levels below the ASHRAE recommendations. MERV-13 Filters have all been checked and replaced during the summer. In addition, a premiere hospital room grade air purifier has been placed in every classroom.

Expanded Learning and After School Programs

The Fenton Schools have assigned a Fenton administrator (Expanded Learning Coordinator) to oversee the before and after school programs at each one of our locations. These administrators are also responsible for overseeing the 30 extra nine (9) hour days of expanded learning available to all Fenton families. Fenton students are able to attend school up to nine (9) hours each day along with an additional 30 extra days during school breaks. All Fenton schools have an engaging program offering at least 30 non-school days, during intersessional periods, no less than nine hours of in-person expanded learning opportunities per day. ([*See Tentative Calendar*](#))

The main responsibilities of our Expanded Learning Coordinators include:

- Supporting and Training All After School Staff (Think Together/LA's Best/After School Staff)
- Contracting with Outside Vendors for Music, Art, Dance, Science opportunities
- Working with Fenton teachers and after school clubs/classes
- After School and Weekend Field Trips
- Intersession Camps
- After School Assemblies

Additional Presentations from Expanded Learning Coordinators include:

- Training of After School Staff (Including Think Together/LA's Best)
- Student Expectations for Behavior After School

The Fenton schools are excited to expand our ability to serve students up to nine (9) hour each day of school and provide an additional 30 extra nine (9) hour days for any child interested. The exciting activities before school, after school, summer, or intersession learning programs will focus on developing the academic, social, emotional, and physical needs and interests of pupils through hands-on, engaging learning experiences. Expanded Learning Coordinators will ensure expanded learning opportunities will implement and maintain at all times a comprehensive emergency plan, health and safety procedures, and Restorative Justice practices.

New Independent Study Guidance

Under the new guidelines of AB 181 (2022), Fenton Charter Public Schools are able to provide a child with an Independent Study on the day of the absence if we receive notification from a parent before school starts. The deadline to receive an Independent Study for the day of the absence is 9:30am. This is a dramatic change in that previous years we were required to obtain parent notification by midnight the night before the absence. These changes were made by the state of California to enable students that were previously unable to receive an Independent Study during previous years because the school was notified the same day of the absence. This change in procedure is expected to increase the number of students eligible to participate in an Independent Study.

Transitional Kindergarten

Fenton has expanded the eligible ages students can begin to enroll in our schools. Based on availability, our schools have been given the discretion by the Fenton Board of Directors to enroll a child who had their **fourth** birthday by **August 1st** to enroll in our Transitional Kindergarten program. Please contact your child's school for more information.

Universal Meal Program

Fenton will continue to provide free breakfast and lunch for all students on campus. All students are eligible to receive breakfast and lunch free of charge each school day regardless of their free or reduced meal eligibility.

Our goal is to create a supportive and nurturing environment for our students. We wish you an amazing school year and look forward to working with you in community. Fenton hopes to offer you a glimpse into the future that is brighter than the dark days we have faced. We walk alongside you in your dreams and ambitions for your child. Fenton is tenacious in our attempts to offer your child a safe and state of the art education.

Sincerely,



David Riddick, Ed.D.
Chief Executive Officer



Jason Gonzalez
Chief Operating Officer