

RETURNING BACK TO SCHOOL

A QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE TO COVID-19

Now that the 2019 - 2020 school year is officially over, many are looking back at this past spring and reflecting on how Covid-19 will affect the upcoming school year.

frk architects + engineers is passionate about creating learning environments that allow students and district staff to thrive. The new normal will be an adjustment to everyone involved but we have provided some ideas that may help make the adjustment easier. Please reach out to frk if you would like to have further discussion on these topics.

CHANGES IN THE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTS

Revising the logistics of a school day, week, or year is one way a district can prepare.

INSTEAD OF HAVING

students high five teachers when arriving to school in the morning

create a positive song or mantra to share with students as they enter the classroom

several lunch periods and rotating student through the cafeteria

utilize 'food cart' options and deliver meals to the classrooms

all students attend classes at the school building everyday

implement a staggered schedule with 'A' days and 'B' days

congested corridors during passing periods

utilize building clock synchronization and stagger passing period times

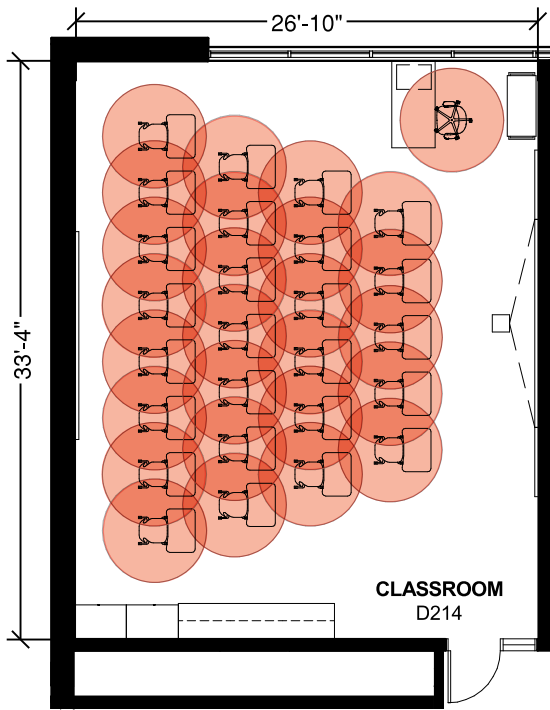
standard student counts in each classroom

physically distance students and use collaboration space for additional seating

traditional lever door handles that require manual operation

use touch-free options to operate frequently used doors

YOU CAN

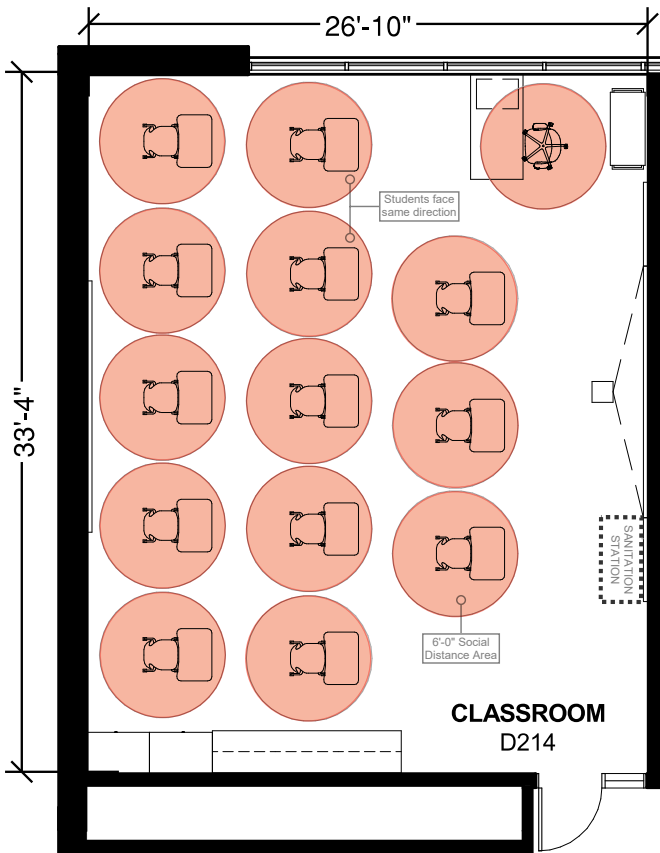


LET'S LAY IT OUT FOR YOU

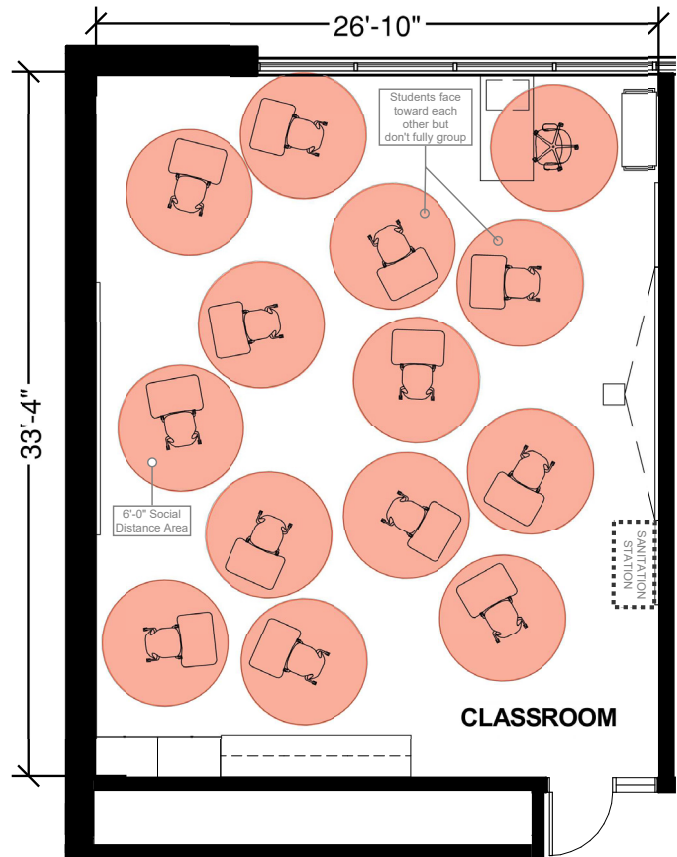
Existing classroom furniture and layouts can be modified to accommodate recommended physical distancing guidelines.

The layout to the left shows what a typical 905sf classroom may look like with 26 student seated in Teacher Based Learning

Layouts below show how a classroom can be reduced from 26 to 13 students to meet current CDC guidelines.



Shown Left: A classroom with students physically distanced and participating in Teacher Based Learning. All students face the same direction to increase distancing effectiveness.



Shown Right: A classroom with students physically distanced and participating in Student Base Learning. Students are gathered near each other but are not fully formed into groups, maintaining physical distance.

ONE WORD TO REMEMBER: COVID

After the Spring of 2020 Covid-19 is something that is on almost everyone's mind. It's hard to forget the hard times we have all experienced. That same word may help you remember some easy pointers when returning to learning.

COMMUNICATION

have a plan in place, communicate that plan district wide.

ex: know where staging areas are going to be for material pick up / meal programs

OBVIOUS

sometimes the easiest solutions are the most obvious

ex: opening exterior windows to increase air flow (if safe to do so)

VARIED

the district plan might vary from time to time - things are ever evolving

ex: new guidance may suggest different social distancing or cleaning measures

INTENTIONAL

prevent waste by being strategic - intentionally place supplies in needed areas

ex: location of sanitation stations, hand sanitizer, informative signage

DOLLAR SMART

if purchasing new FF+E think how the purchase may be re-purposed in the future

ex: create area division with mobile white boards - these can later be used for collaboration

Resources:

CDC guidance on Coronavirus : www.cdc.gov/coronavirus

American Federation of Teachers - Resource : "Plan to Safely Reopen America's Schools and Communities"

Association for Learning Environments- Presentation: " Reopening Schools - When and How? Factors to Consider in the Midst of Covid-19"

"Coping with Covid" [American School and University](#), May/June 2020.