

The Warrior Way

A Path Forward





A Path Forward

The Senatobia Municipal School District, along with guidance from the Mississippi Department of Education and State Health officials, has created a plan for returning to school in August of 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please understand this plan may have to be adjusted quickly in response to new guidance and recommendations from the CDC or health officials. Safety is our first priority.





Goals



- 1 Establish and maintain a safe and beneficial learning environment for staff and students.
- 2 Reopen schools in August and follow as many of the CDC guidelines as possible.
- 3 Provide the option of distance education for those who wish to participate.
- 4 Focus on providing a rigorous curriculum and instruction to increase student achievement regardless the delivery model.

Two Options



IN-SCHOOL

- Daily in-class, teacher led instruction
- Enhanced health and safety procedures



AT-HOME/VIRTUAL

- Instruction and assignments delivered through Google Classroom
- Reliable internet and device required



In-School Plan for Return

- Students will follow a regular schedule Monday–Friday, except for Virtual Fridays.
- Students will attend Virtual Friday every other week, with students participating in distance learning on those days.
- The district will provide a schedule for Virtual Fridays, which will include time for online individual instruction for students. This will also allow for needed interventions and remediation. Teachers may participate in professional development and professional learning communities during this time. Virtual Fridays will allow for additional deep cleaning of facilities and buses.
- Virtual Friday attendance will be taken in accordance with the Mississippi Department of Education’s guidelines regarding distance learning.



Virtual Fridays



- August 28th
- September 11th
- September 25th
- October 9th
- October 23rd
- November 6th
- November 20th
- December 4th
- December 18th (60% day for students)

*See district website for complete district calendar



Safety Considerations



- Each school will have a full-time, on-site nurse.
- Bus drivers, riders, and monitors must wear masks while on the bus.
- All students will be temperature checked each day.
- Staff will keep a temperature check log of student temperature.
- Students will not congregate in areas of the school upon arrival.
- Meals may be served as grab and go, delivered to rooms, and/or staggered rotations through the cafeteria for sit down meals.



Safety Considerations

- Students in Pre-K-6th could potentially remain with the same group of students during the school day. Teachers could potentially move to students.
- Students in 7th-12th will have a staggered class change.
- All schools will have staggered release to the bus and car lines.
- Students will spread out as much as possible in the classroom to promote social distancing.
- Signage will be located throughout the building reminding students of social distancing and what to do if they are showing symptoms of Covid-19.



Safety Considerations

- Masks will be available for students and staff. When social distancing is not an option, masks will be required. Students will be trained in how to wear masks properly.





Safety Considerations

- Students will be taught and reminded about proper hand washing techniques.
- Students who are experiencing symptoms will be in a designated isolation area while they wait for their parents to pick them up.
- Visitors to buildings will be extremely limited.
- Virtual field trips will be encouraged. Face-to-face field trips will not be allowed until further notice.



Temperature Checks



All students and staff will be temperature checked daily. All schools will have a full-time nurse on campus every day. If a student has a fever of 100.4 or higher, they will be isolated until a parent picks them up. Students should remain home until they have been symptom free without medicine for 24 hours. Additional temperature checks may take place throughout the day.



Confirmed Cases Guidelines

- When a student has a confirmed case of COVID-19, he/she will be quarantined by the Mississippi State Department of Health. The student will be able to make-up any missed assignments during his/her time away from school.
- After contact tracing, the Mississippi State Department of Health will determine if any students and/or staff will be subject to a 14-day quarantine period.
- When a student or staff member has a confirmed case of COVID-19, notifications will be sent to the parents of students with whom confirmed cases have been in close contact. In addition, school officials will follow all directions given by the Mississippi State Department of Health regarding contact tracing and quarantining of students that are deemed as "close contacts" by the Mississippi State Department of Health.
- Deep cleaning procedures will be implemented.



Academic Considerations

- As a proactive measure, the grading scale for the 2020-2021 school year has been adjusted to a ten-point scale.

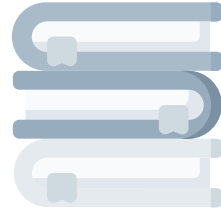
90-100 A

80-89 B

70-79 C

60-69 D

59 and Below F



- The absence requirement in the exemption policy will be waived for 2020-2021. Students are encouraged to stay home if they are showing symptoms of Covid-19.
- Distance learning is available on a full-time basis.
- Distance learning students who are failing or not attending will be required to return to school for face-to-face instruction. Those who are attending daily, completing assignments, and showing success as distance learners will be allowed to continue as virtual learners. ** updated by SMSD board approval on October 1, 2020.*



Transportation Considerations



- Due to the challenge of social distancing on buses, parents are encouraged to provide transportation if possible.
- Bus drivers, riders, and monitors will be required to wear masks.
- Buses will be sanitized between uses and deep cleaned as often as possible.





Distance Learning Option

- To provide flexibility to families, students may participate in the Distance Learning Program.
- Applications will be completed electronically on the district website beginning July 17th.
- Applications will be due by July 24th.
- Applications will be taken on a nine-week basis. There will be an opportunity to transfer from full-time distance learning to the school/traditional classroom setting at the end of each nine weeks. Students may opt-in to distance learning during the nine weeks.
- Students will be enrolled and assigned teachers, but they will complete their learning at home through the use of our learning management system, Google Classroom.
- Students will work virtually from home with support from their teachers.





Distance Learning Option

- Online/digital learning will be the primary method of working towards competency in a grade level/content area. Students will need to have access to adequate internet service and a device on which to complete learning. Using smart phones only will not be sufficient to take part in distance learning. Distance learning will not be provided via paper packets.
- Distance learning students will follow the school board approved academic calendar (located on district website).
- Students may be required to schedule benchmark/state/exam testing at school on a limited basis.
- Best practices for distance learning will be employed to include rigorous instruction, high expectations of student performance, and attainment of all grade-level standards.





Distance Learning Option

- All elective courses may not be offered to full-time distance learning students.
- Distance learning students will not have the option of participating in extracurricular activities such as athletics and fine arts.
- Meals will be available daily via pickup for free or reduced and full-paying students.
- All Senatobia Municipal School District grading policies and procedures will apply during distance learning.
- Attendance will be mandatory. Students must be active online on school days (see school calendar on district website). Further and continued guidance for daily participation will be made available as we begin the school year.
- Distance learning does not serve as an equitable alternative to the traditional classroom setting. Expressing intent to participate constitutes a commitment to virtual learning and acknowledgement to all above statements.





Application Deadlines for Distance Learning Option



First Nine Weeks - July 24th

Second Nine Weeks -September 25th

Third Nine Weeks - December 4th

Fourth Nine Weeks - February 26th



Parent Support



- Please check for symptoms at home each morning before school. These symptoms include fever of over 100.4 degrees, new cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, chills, body aches, muscle pains, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, unusual fatigue or irritability, stomach pain, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, unusual rash, or unusual pink/red eyes not explained by allergies or injury.
- Please keep children at home when symptoms are noticed during your home morning health check.
- Please provide transportation to and from school when feasible.
- If there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 in your household, please report that information to school officials immediately.
- Please follow all guidance from school officials and the Mississippi State Department of Health.





FAQs



1. Are students going to return to school? If so, what will be the date?

Yes. Students are going to return to school on August 17, 2020. Students will have a regular daily schedule. Certain Fridays (see slide #6) will be “Virtual Fridays,” allowing students to work virtually from home with support from teachers, allowing time for intervention and remediation, allowing teachers time to plan for both face-to-face and virtual instruction, and allowing schools to provide additional deep cleaning.

2. Will buses run for transporting students? If yes, what if any new stipulations will be in place?

Yes. Parents will be notified of bus schedules. Bus drivers, riders, and monitors will be required to wear masks while on the bus. Masks may be provided for students who need them.



FAQs



3. Will my child be required to wear a mask while in class?

Yes. Masks will be available for students and staff. When social distancing is not an option, masks will be required.

Students will be trained in how to wear masks properly.

4. Will my child be required to follow dress code?

Yes. Students' facemasks must adhere to current dress code policy. Masks should be appropriate to the educational environment and not cause disruption. Logos, graphics, and designs should be school appropriate.

5. How will breakfast and lunch be provided to my student?

Meals may be served as grab and go, delivered to rooms, and/or staggered rotations through the cafeteria for sit down meals.



FAQs



6. Can I send snacks/items to my child's class?

Parents may send individual snacks for their student. Please do not send classroom snacks/items. Food deliveries will not be accepted.

7. Will my child get to go outside for recess/breaks?

Yes. Students may be allowed to go outside for recess and breaks on staggered schedules.

8. Will I be allowed to visit my child's class?

No. Parents/visitors will not be allowed to visit classrooms.

Visitors to school buildings will be extremely limited.

9. Are parents allowed to enter the school building?

Yes. There will be a checkout process for each school. Parents will need to contact the school in advance for any appointments so that preparations may be made for the visit.



FAQs



10. How will students be dismissed from school each day?

Students will be dismissed from school in a staggered schedule to buses and car rider lines.

11. Will there be field trips?

Teachers may engage students through virtual field trips, but no face-to-face field trips will take place until further notice.

12. Will attendance be mandatory?

Yes. Your student will still be required to attend school every day either physically or virtually.

13. Will there be distance learning options for my child?

Yes. Distance learning options will be provided for students; however, if the distance learning option is chosen, you will be required to maintain that learning option for the entire nine weeks. Parents may revisit this decision each nine weeks. Also, students participating in the distance learning option will not be allowed to participate in athletic or other extracurricular activities.



FAQs



14. What if my child requires distance learning options and I don't have internet or a device? What if I only have a phone?

We will work with parents on a case-by-case basis to help meet the academic and technology needs of individual students.

15. How will social distancing be practiced at school?

Teachers will be adjusting their classrooms to allow for students to spread out as much as possible. Schools will encourage social distancing among students.

16. What kinds of measures will be taken to ensure that buildings are sanitized?

Our staff will be ensuring that all classrooms, bathrooms, cafeteria and all high traffic areas are routinely cleaned and sanitized. Extra supplies are being purchased and each classroom will be stocked with necessary equipment. We also recommend students bring personal hand sanitizer if desired. We welcome parent donations of Clorox wipes and hand sanitizer.



FAQs



17. What kinds of safety measures are being put in place to help ensure the health of my student?

All students and staff will be temperature checked daily. All schools will have a full-time nurse on campus every day. If a student has a fever of 100.4 or higher, they will be isolated until a parent picks them up. Hand sanitizer will be available in every classroom.

We strongly encourage parents to conduct daily temperature checks on their student. Do not send students to school if they have a temperature. Please keep them home until they have been symptom free without medicine for 24 hours.

18. What happens if a student or staff member tests positive for Covid-19?

The Senatobia Municipal School District will follow the federal, state and local mandates related to staff and students who test positive for Covid-19. See slide #12 for more details.



FAQs



18. Will athletic and other extracurricular activities resume as normal?

We will follow MHSAA guidelines and recommendations as it pertains to athletic events. Activities will resume as normal as possible and as allowed by federal, state and/or local mandates. Students participating in the distance learning option will not be allowed to participate in athletic or other extracurricular activities.