



Dear Parents, Caregivers, and Community Members:

As we prepare to enter back in to the school setting I wanted you to know that we are concern and taking this pandemic very serious and will not take chances when it comes to health and safety for our faculty, staff, and students. As well as provide you with our current plans on how we intend to address them. We are your thought partner in this pandemic and want to know what concerns you have as we prepare to reopen. So please call or email the school if you need clarity on anything moving forward. I have placed some priorities in this letter to address concerns we've received via email or telephone.

**Priority - Protecting Health and Safety**-Unsurprisingly, all participants - families, students, and staff - identified health and safety — reducing the risk and spread of COVID-19 as the highest priority. The health and safety of our students, our employees, and our community is our top priority. We have clear guidance from state and federal agencies (Dept. of Health, Centers for Disease Control, and SCS) that we must follow in order to protect the health of our community. We are implementing strict cleaning and sanitation standards that follow these guidelines to ensure our facilities are clean and sanitized. Students, staff, and visitors to Southwind Elementary School must be screened on a daily basis for fever and other health indicators. *Staff and students showing any fever or potential symptoms of the virus including coughing, sneezing, etc. must stay home.*

**Priority - A Return to Normalcy and In-School Learning** The State Health Department, the CDC, and the Office of the Superintendent have issued strict guidelines for preventing the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus. These guidelines include strict social distancing and PPE requirements. For instance, masks and social distancing will be required for all students and staff. Many of you may have concerns or have expressed displeasure with the idea of wearing masks, however, locally we must comply with this statewide directive. School will not look quite like how it has in the past. While it is the goal of Southwind Elementary School to return to robust face-to-face instruction for all students, it is unfortunate that we will have a hybrid model in place. Some students will be apart of the virtual learning platform while others will participate in the face-to-face instruction. Schools must follow the guidelines provided by the state. If you have any questions, concerns, or comments regarding the guidelines, please don't hesitate to contact the school between the work hours and days mentioned below. We will keep you informed throughout the summer as we continue planning for the new school year to begin. Please visit the following website in order to stay abreast of FAQ's and updates. Visit: <https://www.scsk12.org/coronavirusfacts/>

**Priority – Registration**-Staff will be available Monday through Friday from 9 to 2 each day to support registration and assist parents with any issues or concerns. We ask that you call the school and utilize email to provide information needed. We are practicing social distancing as we prepare and get the school set up to handle faculty, staff, and students. Please Google Shelby County Schools Registration to see what is needed to register *New Students* or what has to be done to register *Returning Students*.

**Priority - Educational Opportunities for All Students**-The district is allowing parents to choose either in person (option 1) or virtual learning (option 2) as way to support student learning. Even with all of the efforts to protect student and staff safety, there is still a risk. We want to be sure we provide the opportunity for a rich educational experience for all children within our community, whether they plan to return to the classroom for face-to-face instruction or prefer the opportunity to learn in a virtual setting. We offer rich opportunities for students who do not plan to return to face-to-face instruction through the Florida Virtual School platform. This platform will not take the place of the school district's curriculum but be used as a supplement to support student learning.

**Change is the only constant...**The COVID-19 pandemic is very fluid. Information and guidance is changing as scientists and public health experts learn more about this novel COVID-19 Coronavirus. We are hard at work planning what school opportunities will look like come August, and anticipate that we will have a solid plan in place to promote the safety of our faculty, staff, and student body. We will update you as these plans are developed in the coming weeks. I also encourage you to regularly visit our website for the latest updates. In the meantime, take care of yourselves and each other, stay healthy, and enjoy your time with your family.

Sincerely,

Dennis Kimbrough

Principal

Southwind Elementary School

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