

Jaguar News



A.MACEO WALKER MIDDLE SCHOOL

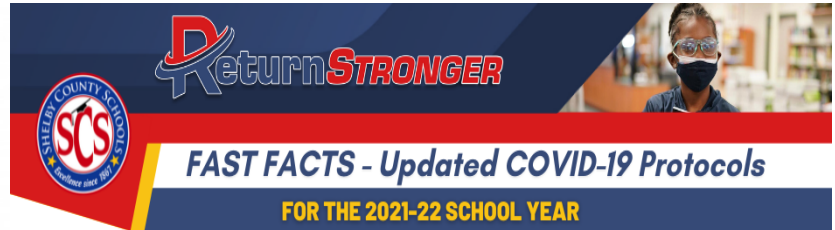
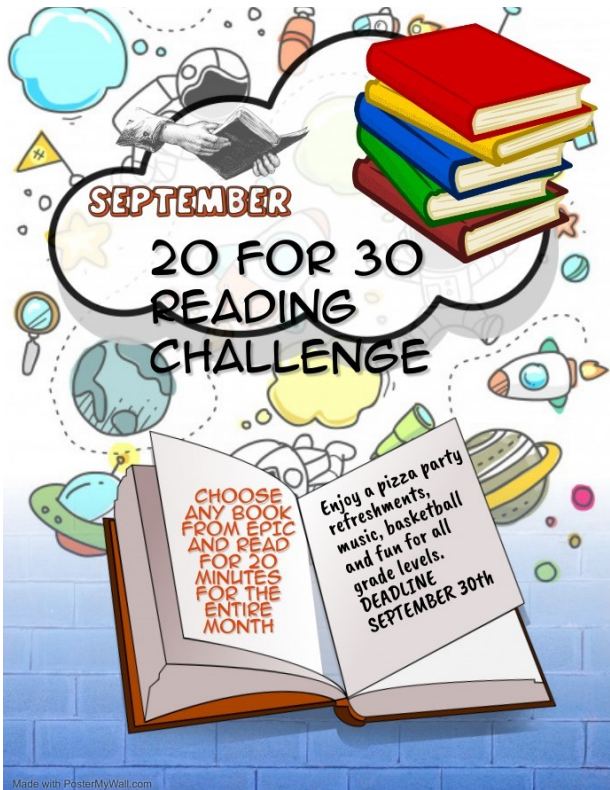
HOME OF THE MIGHTY JAGUARS

DR. T. BRITTENUM, PRINCIPAL
MRS. PATRICIA HERVEY, ASST. PRINCIPAL

MRS. LESLIE BANKS, ASST. PRINCIPAL
MR. ROBERT WASHINGTON, ASST. PRINCIPAL

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The American Academy of Pediatrics released new COVID-19 guidance for schools that supports in-person learning and recommends universal masking in school for everyone over the age of 2, regardless of vaccination status.

Continued Protocols

Masks

- Masks should be worn indoors (schools) and on buses by all employees and students, regardless of vaccination status **until further notice**.

Water

- Bottled water will be provided and students are strongly encouraged to bring water containers.

Social Distancing

- Students will socially distance to the extent possible in classrooms, hallways, common spaces, when moving through the food service line, and while eating.

Updated Protocols

In-Person School Activities, Sports/Extra Curricular

- School activities for employees and students (before, during, and after school), including athletics, will resume, and participants will follow District COVID-19 protocols.
- Normal District-approved practices and processes relating to field trips will resume, and participants will follow COVID-19 protocols.

Playgrounds/Recess

- Playgrounds will reopen for students with social distancing to the extent possible.

Devices

- Like textbooks and supplies, devices should be charged and brought to school daily.

Be Cool..... Attend School

It is very important that you ensure your child attends school daily. Your child misses out on valuable instruction when he or she is not in school. In accordance with SCS Board Policy, excessive student absences will be submitted to the Shelby County Schools Truancy Prevention and Intervention Department. When students are absent more than five times during a grading period, they are considered truant and can be required to show doctor's notes.

STEPS TO FOLLOW WHEN ABSENT

Parent Responsibility

- Parent or guardian must write an excuse indicating the date, days of absence, reason for absence, and include his or her signature.

Student Responsibility

- Submit the excuse to his/her homeroom teacher.
- Ask for make-up assignments. Assignments that are not made up could be reflected in academic grades.

Parent & Teacher Conferences

September 9th
4:00pm -7:00pm

Dates to Remember:

LABOR DAY (STUDENTS OUT)	Sept. 7
PARENT & TEACHER CONFERENCES	Sept. 9
DR. BRITTENUM'S BIRTHDAY	Sept 14
COVID TESTING	Sept 15 & 29
FIRE DRILL	Sept 16
STUDENT DEVICES DAY	Sept 20 & 21
FOOTBALL HOMECOMING	Sept 22



Parents' Corner

POSITIVE PARENTING

Living in today's fast-paced society often leaves parents wondering how to relate to and support their children. Many find themselves utilizing very few disciplinary techniques before exerting physical consequences.

The national volunteer service organization, offered a list of alternative techniques to use when rearing and disciplining children. They encouraged parents to utilize the following strategies when teaching their children the appropriate ways to behave. Parents can:

- **Model**-exhibit the behavior you want to see and share your own experiences with your children
- **Establish Clear Consequences**-tell your child exactly what will happen if a rule is broken
- **Praise**-acknowledge when your child follows the rules
- **Confrontation**-ignoring the behavior does not fix the problem
- **Lead Family Discussions**-talk about what is going on with your children
- **Establish Logical Consequences**-let the punishment fit the crime
- **Implement the First/Then Rule**-inform your child that he/she must complete the task before moving on to something he/she would like to do.
- **Be Consistent**-stick to the rules you set

Keepin' Up With Those Books/Devices

Parents, please remind your child of his/her responsibility to prevent damage to his/her textbooks. Textbooks should be properly secured in lockers and should never be left in the halls, outside, or in a teacher's classroom. Students should never give anyone their locker combinations and should make sure their lockers are locked after each visit. Following these simple steps will help to minimize lost textbook fines and report card holds at the end of the academic school year. Thank you in advance for your help.



Parent's Guide to COVID-19 Testing



Test to Protect Our Schools

Poplar Healthcare is excited to announce targeted mass COVID-19 testing, a process specifically designed to help our schools return safely back to in-person learning.

Why? Create a safer environment for students and faculty as they return to in-person instruction this fall.



Implemented in conjunction with proper hygiene and social distancing measures, targeted mass testing helps ensure a safer start to the school year for those students and faculty attending in-person instruction.

Mass testing gives schools a stronger chance of remaining open, allowing children to benefit from in-person instruction. Most importantly, students are more likely to stay healthy and safer than if testing were not utilized.

What? Pooling and high-throughput PCR-based platforms provide accurate and timely results.



Poplar Healthcare utilizes PCR-based platforms to process samples and detect the SARS-CoV-2 virus, better known as COVID-19. By pooling specimens, the platforms are able to process multiple samples at once, which is critical to offering mass testing to Shelby County Schools. The PCR-based tests utilized by Poplar Healthcare are highly accurate, and results are delivered within 24 hours.

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Covid-19 Testing for Schools: An Overview and FAQ for Parents and Guardians

Q: Why is Shelby County Schools (SCS) offering testing services in the school?

A: SCS is committed to a safe environment for all students that supports on-going, in-person instruction as they return this fall.

Q: Who will be providing the testing services?

A: Shelby County Schools will partner with Poplar Healthcare and Christ Community Health Services for this initiative.

Q: Is testing mandatory?

A: Testing services offered are completely voluntary and will require parental consent.

Q: Does a parent/legal guardian have to be present for the test?

A: A parent or legal guardian is not required to be present for the test, but a parental consent form must be completed prior to testing. The parental consent form only has to be completed once and will be applicable for the entire 2021-22 academic school year.

Q: What type of test will be administered to students?

A: The test will consist of a shallow nasal swab. This is a molecular test, referred to as the polymerase chain reaction (PCR). The PCR test is considered the gold standard of testing because of its accuracy.

Q: How often will my child be tested?

A: Students will be tested on a rotational, systematic schedule throughout the school year.

Q: How long will it take for results to be returned?

A: Results will be returned within 24 hours.

Q: How will I receive my test results?

A: An email will be sent to the parent's or guardian's primary email address of record as listed in PowerSchool. This email will state "Results are Ready." Once opened, the recipient will be redirected to a secure portal to access results.

Q: What happens if the test result is positive?

A: If your child tests positive, he/she will be relocated to the safe room and directed home to self-isolate and seek medical attention, as necessary.

Q: Does anyone else have access to my child's results?

A: Students' health information will only be shared in accordance with HIPAA guidelines and the consent and waiver forms signed by the parent or guardian.

Shelby County Schools offers educational and employment opportunities without regard to race, color, religion, sex, creed, age, disability, national origin, or genetic information.

AMWMS'S BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS

Be Respectful!
Be Responsible!
Be Right!