

Somerset Independent Schools Re-Opening Plan 2020-2021

SCHOOL WILL BEGIN AUGUST 5th under the board approved 20-21 Instructional School Calendar (with 175 instructional days for students)

BEFORE SCHOOL STARTS:

5 Big Items to make sure we are following:

- ✓ Social distancing- maximize social distance at school, reducing large groups
- ✓ Face Covering- to be used when students cannot be 6 feet apart and when moving
- ✓ Screening- including temperature checks
- ✓ Staying at home if anyone has symptoms and contact tracing with Health Department
- ✓ Sanitation and Cleaning-includes washing hands or sanitizer and cleaning of surfaces

There will be a Somerset Schools Application for Instructional Delivery 20-21 online for parents to complete. This will allow us to know the parent intent for instructional delivery for the upcoming school year. Parents will choose 1.) Traditional In-School Learning or 2.) Distance Learning Services.

If a student is coming to school, but has a medical reason that does not allow the student to wear a mask, the parent will need to bring a doctor's note to allow the student to go without a mask at school.

GETTING KIDS TO SCHOOL:

All adults at the school will wear masks during the day (except when eating). District will provide 2 washable/reusable masks for staff and students. [There will be some disposable masks available if a student forgets to bring one.]

We will encourage all students to wear masks while at school. Students must wear masks while riding the school bus or anytime during class where closer than 6 feet or in the hallway during class transition.

Teachers and staff will have temperatures taken and recorded daily as soon as they enter the building. Any person who has a temperature above 100.4 will leave the school building and need to be checked by a health care provider to determine when to return to school.

Bus monitors will take temperatures of students as they get on the bus with a non-touch thermometer – anyone with a temperature above 100.4 F will be sent back to their house with a “high temperature notice”. Driver will need to radio Central Office so someone (Mr. Ham, Ms. Dick, or Mr. Hunley) can call the parent to let them know that the student couldn't ride the bus due to fever. Driver/monitor will also keep a log of who got on the bus each day in case we need to complete tracking/tracing.

On the bus, hand sanitizer will be provided, students will be assigned seats, and students will wear masks. Buses will be sanitized after each route.

Please realize that the bus routes may take a little longer to run since we are adding these steps to the driver's daily routine. Once students have their temperature scanned to ride the bus, they do not need to be scanned again while entering the building. Bus riders will need to enter the building at a designated, separate entrance from parent drop off or driver students.

The district has purchased scanner thermometers for each bus route and approximately one dozen for each school building for day to day operations.

Each building will have stipends for 10 people to monitor entry and take temperatures of students. These staff members will need to take the student's temperature BEFORE the parents drive away. In the case that a student has a high temperature, the parent can take the child home before he or she enters the building.

Any student who checks in after 8:00 will need to have their temperature checked in the office prior to going to class.

Each school will need to designate a "Sick Bay" or holding room [outside of the office area] for students with fever to wait to be taken home. If a student with a fever does not have a mask, please give the student a disposable mask to wear while waiting.

Students entering the building may pick up a breakfast-to-go outside the cafeteria if they wish and eat in cafeteria or the designated overflow area. (Hopkins students will eat in the classroom.) All other students go directly to their first class/homeroom classroom. Students will not be held in the cafeteria or gym in a large group.

Teachers will need to be in their classroom by 7:40 am each morning unless they are on morning duty, in which case they will need to get to their classroom as soon as possible. This means in classroom with temperature already taken by 7:40am.

Each teacher will need to maximize social distancing in the classroom. Classroom seating needs to be designed in such a way so that students are separated as much as possible and they are NOT facing each other. Consider storing all extra furniture that would normally be shared between students. They can all face the same direction - with the exception of a few rooms where students will be facing the outside walls such as in computer labs.

WHILE AT SCHOOL:

In classrooms, we will discourage the sharing of items that are hard to clean or disinfect. Each student's material should be marked and kept for their own use.

Teachers and staff will train students and encourage to wash their hands multiple times during each school day.

All students in grades 3-12 will be assigned an electronic device to use during the school day and/or use at home if there is a short-term or long-term closure.

Teachers will need to have assigned seats in all classes and have a paper copy of all seating charts readily available. Teachers can change seating assignments, but seating charts MUST be updated and current.

Students can bring their own water bottles and we would discourage the use of water fountains.

Students should only leave to use the restroom one at a time during class time. Pre-school, kindergarten, 1st grade and 2nd grade teachers (with restroom in their classroom) are to allow students to use the restrooms inside each classroom with frequent cleaning/disinfecting high touch surfaces such as door handle and sink knobs.

We need to control traffic patterns during class changes to reduce the amount of time and people students come into contact with. At Hopkins and Meece, core class teachers will rotate classrooms instead of the students moving classes. At SHS, reduce the class change time to 3 minutes to discourage students congregating in the halls. SHS staff should be posted at the restrooms during transition to let no more than 3 students in the rest room at a time. Traffic patterns should be taught to students and encourage students and staff to maintain a social distance and keep masks covering the nose and mouth while in the hallway during class transition time periods.

Students at Hopkins and Meece can still go to special classrooms, teachers will need to have students follow social distance and wear masks in the hallways.

We will clean desks and other high touch surfaces between class changes. For example, at the end of class the teacher can have students place their things on their chair and the teacher spray all desks with sanitizer. He or she can give each child a paper towel to wipe the desk down with the sanitizer. The student can then grab their belongings from the chair and throw the paper towel in the garbage on the way out of the room. –OR- A teacher may use a paper towel and disinfectant spray to quickly wipe down all desks and chairs. We cannot purchase enough Clorox wipes for each student to clean one desk between each class period. We will have to use the spray bottles. The exception will be for computer keyboards, teachers will need to use the Clorox disinfecting wipes or spray disinfectant on a paper towel – instead of spraying directly on the keyboards – to clean any computers for the next group of students. Student helpers can NOT help to clean all desks to reduce liability.

Students at the middle school and high school will not use lockers.

Lunch plans: Students must sit at least 6 feet apart to be able to take off their mask to eat. Students should not face each other at a table. The cafeteria and classrooms may be used for students to each lunch.

Students in pre-school through 5th grade will still have scheduled recess times. Students will wash hands or use sanitizer before and after recess.

Non-essential visitors to the school building will be limited. This includes volunteers, classroom parties, special activity lunches, and classroom parties at the elementary school.

Field trips and large group activities are cancelled.

GETTING KIDS HOME:

Each school will need to add extra people to help watch students during dismissal. This will help students stay social distanced and keep their hands to themselves. (Specialists and aides at middle school and elementary.) Students at Hopkins and Meece will remain in classrooms until their bus numbers have been called and will wear masks in the hallway and on the bus. For parent pick up students, each will have to wear masks while waiting for parents in the cafeteria.

NTI (Short-term or Long-term Closure for students attending in-person classes)

Grades PK-4 will still need to prepare/complete packets since we are not 1:1 with technology in these grades. Teachers may need to video lessons to post or have Zoom/TEAM meetings as necessary. More information will be provided during professional development.

Grades 5-12 will be able to take Stream or Chrome Books home. Teachers may need to video lessons to post or have Zoom/TEAM meetings as necessary. More information will be provided during professional development.

Teachers using Google Classroom will be able to have students download assignments while at school then work on them at home, even off-line. Then, the assignments can be uploaded when students return to school if they do not have internet services at home. We will provide teachers with professional development before the school year begins.

Distance Learning Services

For students/families who apply for distance learning, we will provide a hybrid learning model. This will include some technology aspects such as lesson videos to watch and possible online assignments or return of assignments. Students will also receive paper/pencil assignment that may be returned electronically or in the school drop-off bins.

Each student will have one or more assigned teachers that will deliver content through recorded video and will monitor student completion of course work for successful progress. The teacher will also be responsible for student contact and feedback and grades in a timely manner. These students will still be enrolled in Somerset Independent Schools the same as a student attending in-person traditional classes and will receive grades accordingly.

Students/families will have the opportunity to send in their intent for learning method via an online application. They will have until July 12th to complete the form. One for each student – the data will be collected by school. This will allow us to schedule students for a traditional in-person class or a distance learning class. We will put this out on Facebook, the district webpage, and send a One Call and reminder. For students that we do not get an application for, we will need to contact (by phone) for the learning method preference.

Parents/students will have the opportunity to change their choice of in-person traditional classes or distance learning at the beginning of the school year or at the end of a 9 week term. Students may only change choice of their learning format two times during the school year.

Students who choose distance learning will be able to participate in extra-curricular activities.

SCHOOL EXCLUSION/ RETURN TO SCHOOL:

Any student or staff that has a temperature greater than 100.4 F will leave the school building.

Any person will be able to return to school when the local health department or the student's health provider provides clearance documentation for school record.

***This plan may change due to state and/or CDC-department for public health guidance.**

Documents and Items that will be coming soon...

New signs for doors – for all entrances that staff and students use in the morning.

Forms – to include High Temperature Log and notice for parents, student tracking sheet for students who are sent home from school, student bathroom log for classrooms, cleaning checklist for teachers and custodians

PD details and letter to teachers

Opening Day details to staff