

Dear SMACS Families,

I can't thank you enough for the tremendous support you've shown me, the teachers, and all other employees at St. Mary's Academy Charter School (SMACS) during this difficult time in our history. What you, your child, and our SMACS family accomplished, under these extraordinary circumstances, at the end of the last school year was incredible.

We will begin the 2020-21 school year on August 31 with Remote and Face to Face Instruction. With COVID-19 cases on the rise in Beeville, some parents and students are choosing to learn from home (Remote) and some Face to Face. The instruction method is a parent choice. Rest assured that either way your child will be educated in the best instructional method. We are structuring small class sizes for face to face instruction and parents will only be able to change the type of instruction on a 9 week period basis.

Face to Face

Our **Face to Face** students will be spaced the allowed distance that has been recommended to us by Texas Education Agency and the Center for Disease Control. Here are some routines and procedures that we have put in place for safety reasons:

- Hours will be 8:00 am to-3:45 pm, we are asking parents to drop off kids no earlier than 7:45am and pick up no later than 4:00pm
- No after school tutorials
- Emergency cards **MUST** be filled out with correct and working phone numbers
- Every child must wear a mask.
- Student desks will be placed 3 feet apart with sneeze guards
- Students will be lined up with a 3 feet space in between
- Physical Education classes will be divided 3 ways for smaller student pods
- Students will eat in their assigned classroom
- No lunch deliveries will be allowed, only lunch boxes from home
- No fast food breakfast or lunch will be allowed
- Breakfast and Lunch will be free
- No visitors will be allowed in buildings, appointments must be made by phone
- Parents WILL NOT be allowed in buildings for safety purposes
- Temperature checks twice a day. Once upon arrival (in vehicle) at drop off and once before lunch time
- Teachers will distribute student schedules and school supply lists the first week
- Water cooler dispensers will be located and monitored in designated areas
- Students must bring a clear small plastic refillable water bottle with their name on it (NO MUGS OR LARGE YETI CUPS)
- Rooms will be sanitized daily and all safety precautions will be taken
- Parent forms must be returned the following day with students
- Parents must make health checks every morning before coming to school, if a child gets sick at school parents will be called to pick up child as soon as possible
- Students with fever or feeling ill at school will be quarantined in an isolation station in nurses room

REMOTE LEARNING

Our **Remote instructional** method will be a more robust, challenging, and improved program than what students experienced in the spring. It will be more like a normal classroom model for students with increased instruction and more frequent online contact with their school and teachers.

Expectations for online learners will be to exhibit engagement through accomplishment of student work on a daily schedule. Attendance and grades will be given daily on student work. If a student is not engaged for the day on student work, then an absent mark will be given. Truancy will be in effect for those who show 3 days of absences in a nine week period. Students must be engaged to be counted present.

Teachers will contact parents by phone to explain the instructional plan for the first two weeks (SEE ATTACHED FLYER).

During the first two weeks of school all **REMOTE ONLINE** students will be given instructional packets.

We will also be sending student forms along with the instructional packets. All student forms must be returned NO LATER THAN THE FIRST WEEK of SCHOOL. Please drop off the completed student forms during lunch pick-ups or drop off in the front office

- The First Instructional packets are scheduled to be passed out on **August 27 & 28**, between the hours of **3:00-6:00**, prior to the first day of school.
- The Second instructional packets will be passed out on **September 2 & 3**, between the hours of **3:00-6:00**
- Students must take picture of the completed assignment and return through remind or email
- A picture of completed assignments must be taken on a daily basis and sent to teacher. This will count as student engagement and attendance for the day.

DEVICES

To facilitate online learning for all students, SMACS has ordered additional I-pads and laptops to be distributed to students. The IT (Technology Team) is still preparing the new devices and awaiting the arrival of more devices at this time. The school will start to distribute devices the 3rd week of school the week of September 8, 2020. The school will host a parent orientation and training session for families to share our expectations as well as provide available resources and support during this time. The device pickup and training times will be scheduled by grade level.

I understand not being able to come together in person to meet the teacher on campus will be difficult, but we have to think of safety first. We will hold a Virtual Parent Meeting starting Wednesday, August 26th thru Friday, August 28th. Exact dates and times will be sent out along with this letter.

(PLEASE SEE ATTACHED FLYER) Virtual meeting times will be sent out on **REMIND**, so please keep your eye open for your scheduled time. Obviously, this decision is not an easy one, so we hope everybody understands that the safety of students is our first priority. We hope that you keep yourselves along with your family healthy and safe.

Thank you again for your support of SMACS.

Hirma Elizondo

St. Mary's Academy Charter School Principal