

Hancock County Schools 2020-21 Reopening Plan



HANCOCK COUNTY SCHOOLS WILL OPEN AUGUST 3, 2020

In the Hancock County School System, the health and safety of our students and staff are our top priorities. The HCS Leadership Team has been working diligently to plan to safely welcome our students back to school on August 3. An important part of this planning process is parent input.

We appreciate the work and flexibility of our teachers and parents as we ended the spring semester of school. Considering the ongoing situation with Covid-19, we must remain flexible and open-minded throughout the process of planning for the 2020-2021 school year. While there are many changes occurring in our world, the mission of Hancock County Schools, “*Success through Perseverance*”, continues to be our focus.

District and school leaders have sought and continue to seek advice from a variety of references and stakeholders throughout this process.

We are currently working on a plan to have children in physical classrooms when school opens on August 3 while following health and safety recommendations and guidelines. Protocols will be in place to limit interactions and increase cleanliness efforts. To honor individual needs and circumstances of students and families, we also plan to offer the choice of a full-time online program of study as an alternative to in-person learning. Should the need arise to close buildings in the future, our transition from on-campus instruction to online learning should be seamless.

WE ARE COMMITTED TO BEING RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF OUR STUDENTS WHILE FOLLOWING PRACTICAL GUIDANCE FOR COVID-19 SAFETY

As this planning moves forward, educators and parents will receive regular updates on the planning process, along with evolving safety guidance from local, state, and national health and safety sources.

Student activities will follow the most up to date safety recommendations and will seek to minimize health risks. Some of the safety precautions are listed below.

- School will begin with Inservice on July 30, 2020.
- The first full day of school will be August 3, 2020.
- Hand Sanitizing stations will be installed in each classroom.
- Sanitizing foggers will be used daily in each school after school hours.
- Buses will be sanitized daily.
- Teachers will have thermometers to check student temperatures daily.
- P.E. classes will be arranged in small groups.
- Limited number of students in the cafeteria at a time.
- Students will be trained in hand washing and respiratory hygiene.
- Classroom size will be limited to 25 students or fewer.
- Desks will be spaced as far apart as possible.
- Limited parent and community member visits to the facility.
- No visitors for breakfast or lunch.
- Masks will be available if students choose to wear one.
- Classrooms will have sanitizing supplies available in each room.
- Heavy traffic areas such as the office will be behind plexiglass.
- The social distancing rule will be utilized as much as possible.

NOTE: As plans develop and recommendations change, we will adjust procedures as needed.