



COVID-19 PATHWAY TO REOPENING

PLAN FOR THE 2020-2021 YEAR

CHEATHAM COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Introduction

The goal of the Cheatham County School District is to reopen schools for the 2020-2021 academic year on Thursday, Aug. 13.

Our priorities are the health/safety of students and staff and providing five-star academic instruction to our students.

These priorities align with the Tennessee State Board of Education's requirement to provide a comprehensive and high-quality instruction regardless of COVID-19.

Due to the ever-changing circumstances and evolving research and guidance regarding COVID-19, the district will be prepared for a continuum of models for schooling: traditional (with a virtual option), hybrid and remote.

Each of these plans will ensure that the district is prepared to continue providing a high-quality education for all students no matter the circumstances.

The level of community spread of COVID-19 and the district's ability to adhere to laws, policies and guidelines will guide the district's decision-making relative to school reopening and any changes that could occur throughout the school year.

Traditional Schedule

The Traditional Model opens school for all students with an option for distance learning for those that are not comfortable returning physically to school. People choosing distance learning will need to have adequate access to the Internet and technology to complete instruction with classroom learning.

An agreement/policy would be made with the school, parent, and student on responsibilities to virtual learning. Attendance for online students will be taken daily.

Signs and Messages

- Schools will post signs in highly visible locations (e.g., school entrances, restrooms) that promote everyday protective measures and describe how to stop the spread of germs (such as by properly washing hands and properly wearing a cloth face covering).
 - Signs will be posted in every bathroom or washing station.
- Schools will broadcast regular announcements on reducing the spread of COVID-19 on PA systems.
- Schools will include messages (for example, videos) about behaviors that prevent the spread of COVID-19 when communicating with staff and families (such as on school websites, in emails, and on school social media accounts).
 - Schools will show videos of examples showing how to walk properly, get water, and other tips to help promote safe distancing in school.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

- Staff will clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces (e.g., door handles, sink handles, water bottle fillers) within the school and on school buses between use of students. Use of shared objects (e.g., gym or physical education equipment, art supplies, toys, games) should be limited when possible, or cleaned between use.
- Each room will be provided with cleaning solution and paper towels to disinfect and will be placed in a secure location when not in use.

Washing Hands

Schools will teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and increase monitoring to ensure adherence among students and staff.

- The district will work with the custodial staff at SMS to ensure the supply of soap and paper towels are on hand at each location.

Schools will encourage staff and students to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash and hands washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

- HAND SANITIZER WILL NOT BE PROVIDED BY THE DISTRICT BECAUSE OF LACK OF AVAILABILITY. If available in the classroom hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol may be used (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer) if soap and water are not readily available.

Cloth Face Coverings

Face coverings may be worn, but not required by staff and students in times when physical distancing is difficult.

Field Trips

- No classroom field trips.
- Virtual field trips encouraged.
- Sporting events and competitions may happen as necessary. (Must have prior approval)

Visitors

- No non-essential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations.
- Open houses or large group meetings need to be held virtually

Shared Objects

- Staff will keep each child's belongings separated from others' and in individually labeled containers, cubbies, or areas when available.
- Staff will ensure there are adequate supplies to minimize sharing of high touch materials to the extent possible (e.g., assigning each student their own art supplies, equipment).

Nurse

- Schools will identify an isolation room or area to separate anyone who has COVID-19 symptoms or tests positive but does not have symptoms.
- Clinic should not be accessed by any non-essential students and staff.
- School administrators should notify Director of Schools or Designee if a COVID-19 case is found in the building.

Before School

- Students will go directly to their assigned classrooms upon entering the building.
- Access to building will be monitored.

Breakfast

- Students will go to the cafeteria or designated area to pick up breakfast and take directly back to classroom.
- Students will eat breakfast in their classroom.
- Separate trash containers will be utilized and placed in the hallway for food waste.

Lunch

- Entire building will be utilized during lunch for social distancing.
- Separate trash containers will be utilized and placed in the hallway for food waste.

After School

- Building level principals will create a safe area for bus riders, car riders, and aftercare students.
- Times for dismissal will be staggered to avoid close contact in the hallway.
- Exit doors will be monitored for students exiting the building.

Bus

- Buses will run on regular routes.
- Students and bus drivers are recommended to wear a mask because of lack of social distancing.
- Buses will load and unload on a staggered schedule, so that all bus students are not entering or exiting building at same time.
- Buses will be cleaned and disinfected after each use.

Elementary Classroom

- A group will be created at each location, including a supervisor, to look at classroom set up and make suggestions for minimal student exposure and organization of the classroom.
- Desks will not be placed in groups but rather spaced out as much as possible.
- Classes that use flexible seating, such as tables, will separate students as much as possible and clean and disinfect on a regular basis.
- No sharing of supplies. Students' materials will be kept individually in cubbies or something similar.
- In grades where they are departmentalized, teachers will sanitize classroom between groups of students. Handwashing or sanitizing breaks are taken often during the day.
- Centers may be used, but in very small groups with a process for disinfecting after use.
- Small group instruction with adequate spacing may take place with a process for disinfecting between groups.

Elementary Schools will use an online platform to send out instructional materials, gather feedback, and assess students that reduces the use of paper copies.

- Microsoft Team
 - All students have an account.
 - Building principals will look for ways to train and educate students and parents to use the platform.
 - Professional development will be made available for educators on how to use and implement the program.
 - Parents will be given an overview as to how to use Team.
 - This program will be used by every student in the case that all students need to go virtual.

Elementary Related Arts

- Staff will clean and disinfect items used by students during class time.
- Staff will limit sharing of items and contact between students.
- Handwashing breaks are recommended when items are shared, or activities require contact of other students.
- Staff will limit the sharing of electronic devices, toys, books, and other games or learning aids if possible.

Middle School Classroom

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- Classes that use flexible seating, such as tables, will separate students as much as possible and clean and disinfect on a regular basis.
- No sharing of supplies. Students' materials will be kept individually in cubbies or something similar.
- Lockers: Color coded lockers will be used in an alternating manner as specified by the teacher.
- Teachers will sanitize classroom between groups of students. Handwashing or sanitizing breaks are taken often during the day.

Middle Schools will use an online platform to send out instructional materials, gather feedback, and assess students in both in class and virtual setting.

- Schoology
 - All students will have an account.
 - All students will have access to a device.
 - ALL coursework should be delivered to ALL students through Schoology.
 - Professional development will be made available for educators on how to use and implement the program.
 - Teachers will introduce students to Schoology during beginning of the year procedures.

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High School Classroom

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- No sharing of supplies.
- Lockers will be monitored between class changes.
- Teachers will sanitize classroom between groups of students. Handwashing or sanitizing breaks are taken often during the day.

High School Instruction

- To decrease the amount of class changes per day, instruction will be delivered with an A/B style schedule. Courses will still be yearlong classes with periods 1, 3, 5, 7 on “A” day and periods 2, 4, 5, 6 on “B” day. Students will meet 5th period because of lunch schedule daily.

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Hallways – as little contact with others as possible

- Staff will provide physical guides, such as tape on floors or sidewalks and signs on walls, to ensure that staff and children remain separated as much as possible.

Special Populations

- ALL special population students will continue receiving services as determined by their IEP or ILP.
- Teachers will wipe down and clean their area after every session.

Hybrid Model 2

The Hybrid Model will cut the number of students in the building at one time in half. One half of the students will attend physically on Mondays and Tuesdays. The other half of the students will attend on Thursdays and Fridays. Wednesdays will be used for deep cleaning and scheduled student appointments for instruction on an as-needed basis. Students will participate remotely on the days they are not in the buildings. An agreement/policy would be made with school, parent, and student on responsibilities to virtual learning. Attendance will be taken daily for both in person and distance learning.

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Special Populations

- ALL special population students will continue receiving services as determined by their IEP or ILP.
- Teachers will wipe down and clean their area after every session.

Virtual Learning

Virtual learning expectations are for either the Traditional Model or if the district has to move to an entire Remote Model. An agreement/policy would be made with school, parent, and student on responsibilities to virtual learning. Attendance will be taken daily for all students.

Elementary Classroom

- Teachers will still have access to their classroom with limited contact with peers.
- Masks will be required in building when in contact with others.
- The use of Microsoft Team will allow teachers to provide instruction, gather feedback, and assign assessments.
- Scheduled appointments for student assessment will be allowed with prior approval.

Elementary Instruction

- The use of Microsoft Team and other online platforms such as instructional videos and practice pages can be used to guide learning.
- Teachers will provide a clear agenda of instructions on what parents need to accomplish with their child at home.
- Hot spots will be set up around the county for Wi-Fi access for student access.
- Daily small group meetings to connect with students and deliver instruction will be delivered through Team or other secure online meeting platforms.
- Content will be assigned daily to meet Tennessee standards and attendance requirements.

Elementary Related Arts

- Building level principals will work with their related arts teachers to continue to provide their resource to students.

Middle School Classroom

- Teachers will still have access to their classroom with limited contact with peers.
- Masks will be required in building when in contact with others.
- The use of Schoology will allow teachers to provide instruction, gather feedback, and assign assessments. Schoology will be same platform used during traditional instruction as well.
- Scheduled appointments for student assessment will be allowed with prior approval.

Middle School Instruction

- All course content will be delivered through Schoology.
- Hot spots will be set up around the county for Wi-Fi access for student access.
- Students will learn to utilize Schoology during beginning of school procedures.
- Content will be assigned daily to meet Tennessee standards and attendance requirements.

High School Classroom

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Special Populations

- Special Population teachers will follow federal guidelines and recommendations to provide services to students with special needs.

Assistants

- Principals will employ assistants to help during online instruction and videoing per their building needs.

Academic Specialists

- Will work with administration to provide and monitor online instruction for students.