



Horn Lake Elementary 2020-21 Student Return to School Plan

Our #1 priority at Horn Lake Elementary is to keep all students and staff safe and healthy! Due to Covid-19, HLES is implementing various new procedures to decrease the risk of spreading illness on our campus. This document will outline the guidelines to support our plan. Please note that these procedures are subject to change based on recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control, MS Department of Health, and MS Department of Education.

In an effort to support the needs of families, DeSoto County Schools is offering distance learning. Caregivers may choose between traditional school or an online option. The deadline to sign up for distance learning is July 22. For more information on our Distance Learning/Virtual Instructional Program (VIP), please visit: <https://www.desotocountyschools.org/distancelearning>
Or email: distancelearning@dcsms.org

Student Arrival:

Each morning students will report directly to their classroom. Teachers and staff will monitor this transition in the hallway to help social distance students.

- Breakfast will be served in the classroom instead of the cafeteria.
- All students will sanitize their hands before entering the classroom.
- All students and staff are highly encouraged to wear a face mask or covering during morning arrival.

Student Dismissal:

Bus riders and day care riders will begin dismissal at 2:20 p.m. Students will dismiss with his/her class in a single file line. Teachers and staff will monitor this transition to help students social distance. To minimize contact, buses and daycare vans will have assigned seats. Buses will be sanitized after each route. Due to the space limitations on school buses, parents are encouraged to provide transportation for his/her child. All students, staff, and bus drivers are highly encouraged to wear a mask or face covering during dismissal and transport.

Car rider will begin dismissal at approximately 2:30 p.m. Students will have assigned seating and practice social distancing while waiting to be picked up. *Kindergarten* car riders will dismiss from the cafeteria. To ensure social distancing, *first and second grade* students will be dismissed from his/her classroom.

Walkers will dismiss from his/her classroom at approximately 2:55 p.m.

A detailed map and instructions for car riders and walkers will be released to all car riders and walkers.

Learning in Classrooms

To minimize contact, students will have assigned seats. Teachers will attempt to social distance students. However, due to space and furniture this may not be feasible. We are strongly encouraging students and staff to wear masks.

- Students will no longer share common supplies.
- Classroom surfaces will be sanitized throughout the school day.
- Students will sanitize and wash his/her hands frequently throughout the school day.
- Schoolwide announcements will be made each morning reminding students to practice social distancing and good hygiene.
- Students will only interact with his/her classmates while on campus. Teachers, staff, and students will be highly encouraged to wear a face mask or covering, especially during small group and one-on-one instruction.

Recess:

Recess and play are both very important activities for children to properly grow and develop. All students at HLES will have daily recess. To ensure social distancing, classes will be assigned “playground zones”. To minimize contact, students will not interact or play with students from other classes.

- All students will sanitize or wash his/her hands before entering and upon exiting the playground.
- Playground equipment will be sanitized in between classes.

Lunch:

Students at HLES will eat lunch in the cafeteria. To minimize contact, students will have assigned seating and will social distance from other classes.

- Students will sanitize and wash his/her hands before eating lunch.
- Tables will be sanitized between classes. Students will not be allowed to share food/drinks with one another.
- No outside lunch visitors will be allowed.

Activity Classes:

Students will participate in Art, Library, PE, Computer, and Music classes. Schedules have been changed to allow extra time to clean/sanitize these rooms between classes. To minimize contact, students will have assigned seats.

- Students will bring their own supplies to Art class.
- Computer equipment will be sanitized between classes.
- Minimal equipment will be used in PE classes and will be sanitized between classes.
- At this time, students will not check out books from the school library.

Other procedures to decrease the risk:

- **ALL** students and staff are strongly encouraged to wear a face mask and/or covering, especially during transitions and small group instruction. Teachers and staff will be provided with masks and face shields.
- Horn Lake Elementary has a full-time nurse on campus. Any student showing symptoms of illness will be seen by the school nurse. Parents will be called to pick up students who may pose a health risk. Students with a fever greater than 100 degrees will be required to stay home for a 10-day quarantine period OR be cleared with a doctor's note. These students will participate in distance learning during the 10-day quarantine period.
- All teachers and staff will self-assess daily, using a Covid-19 screener.
- Horn Lake Elementary will limit outside visitors. Only vendors and district personnel will be allowed on campus. All other visitors will be by appointment only. Visitors will be required to complete a Covid-19 screener before entering the building. To minimize contact, all parent conferences will be held virtually or by phone.
- Both "Meet the Teacher" and Registration will be by appointment only. Your child's teacher will call to schedule "Meet the Teacher."
- Parents wishing to check out his/her student should call the front office when they arrive on campus. Parents will be required to come into the foyer to show ID and sign the student out. Parents will not be allowed to wait in the office area but may wait in the foyer.
- At this time, there will be no field trips planned for the 2020-21 school year.
- Common areas such as restrooms, water fountains, light switches, doorknobs, etc. will be sanitized frequently throughout the day.
- We still strongly recommend students bring a water bottle each day.

Things parents do to help us decrease the risk:

- Begin talking to your child now about social distancing.

- Teach your child how to properly wash his/her hands. Make it fun by singing the ABC's 2x's during handwashing.
- Practice wearing a mask at home, so they are comfortable when school starts.
- Teach your child to keep their hands away from their mouth, nose, and eyes.
- Teach your child to cough and sneeze in his/her elbow.
- Talk to them about not sharing food and drinks with classmates.
- Send a water bottle with your child daily to minimize the use of water fountains.
- Always keep your child at home if they are displaying any signs of illness.

Please remain patient and positive during these uncertain times. We will work together to make HLES a safe and fun place where all students love learning! Feel free to reach out to our staff if you have any questions or concerns regarding our school plan. We are available between the hours of 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. at 662-393-4608.

For information regarding Virtual Instructional Program, please email distancelearning@dcsms.org or visit the following website: <https://www.desotocountyschools.org/distancelearning>