

## **Lake Cormorant High School Parents and Guardians -**

With the release of the DCS Return-To-Learn plan, there have been many questions raised by parents and students. I wanted to let you know how this plan will affect LCHS directly, so you can start planning.

Many of the guidelines and suggestions that we are forced to consider before re-opening come from MDE, MS Dept of Health, and the CDC.

- These guidelines directly affect many of LCHS “Normal” Policies and Procedures drastically and we have to make things work the best we can while putting changes in place to protect our students’ and teachers’ safety.

All information is subject to change if new guidance is issued by the government and/or health officials.

## **Lake Cormorant High School Return-To-Learn Plan**

At LCHS, we completely understand that not every parent or student will be in favor of these temporary changes whether it be the safety/medical aspect, academic issues, limited extra-curricular, and/or the limited social contact that students will have.

- Full-time distance learning (VIP) will be an option for students during the 2020-2021 school year. Virtual Instruction Program distance learning will allow students to remain enrolled in DeSoto County Schools while receiving teacher-facilitated online instruction.

**LCHS Parents/Guardians can register by completing the distance learning application on the DeSoto County Schools website, <https://www.desotocountyschools.org/distancelearning>, and questions about the application process can be answered by sending an email to [distancelearning@dcsms.org](mailto:distancelearning@dcsms.org)**

- The application form must be completed by Wednesday, July 22nd.
- Extracurricular activities will not be available to full-time distance learning (VIP) students.

This is a tough decision with no right or wrong answer. This is a personal decision each parent and student will have to make together.

While LCHS intends to begin the school year with the traditional school model, all parents must be prepared for individual students or groups of students to be sent home for distance learning during the school year. Frequent changes could be made throughout the school year based on COVID-19 spread in our schools and community.

Social distancing will be maintained to the greatest extent possible at LCHS. Social distancing recommendations and safest practices will be in place and reminders will be posted throughout the building and students will be reminded of these daily over the intercom. We will post signage throughout the school regarding good hygiene practices, and district guidance regarding staying at home when sick.

Daily, faculty/staff will reinforce procedures regarding daily health questions for students and follow guidelines for students and staff who are experiencing symptoms. LCHS faculty/staff will follow contact tracing instructions from local and state health agencies. We will isolate and deep clean impacted classrooms and spaces.

Below is information that we hope is temporary, but will be in effect for the 2020-2021 school year unless announced otherwise:

## FAQ – Lake Cormorant High School

### **Arrival**

- Doors will open at 8:05am.
- Car riders and student drivers will enter LCHS through the east gym entrance.
- Bus riders will enter LCHS through the front entrance.
- Students will not wait in the cafeteria or library in the morning.
- Students will report directly to their 1<sup>st</sup> Block or Homeroom – this will be announced to students as they enter LCHS.
- No Loitering

### **Dismissal**

- Dismissal times will be staggered. Car riders and those students who drive to LCHS will be dismissed first by hall to the B/C side of LCHS towards the student parking lot. Bus riders will be dismissed 5 minutes later by hall to the A/D side of LCHS.
- Bus rider and car rider locations will be the same as previous years.
- As students wait to be pick up by parents or for buses to arrive, students will be strongly encouraged to wear masks to adhere to the social distance guidelines.

### **Break**

- Break has been moved to 8:05am-8:30am. Break carts will be placed in 3 transition zones as students head to 1<sup>st</sup> Block.

### **Lunches**

- We will have 6 lunches to keep the lunchroom capacity at 50%.
- Students will remain 6 feet apart walking to and from the cafeteria.
- Students will have assigned areas to sit in the café that are spaced out skipping seats
- No “outside” lunches and/or fast food will be dropped off for students.
- No visitors are allowed to come have lunch with students.

### **Restrooms**

- Restrooms usage will be limited due to cleaning.
- Restrooms will be closed during class changes.
- We will limit restroom capacity to three at a time.

### **Schedules**

- Students and parents will be able to access schedules by August 3<sup>rd</sup> through Parent Portal. Parents can contact their child’s counselor via email.
  - 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>: Mrs. Childress-Dunbar [yaminoh.childress@dcsms.org](mailto:yaminoh.childress@dcsms.org)
  - 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>: Ms. Coleman [karissa.coleman@dcsms.org](mailto:karissa.coleman@dcsms.org)
- From August 3<sup>rd</sup> – August 5<sup>th</sup>, students will be able to request course/schedule changes – there will be a link provided on the school’s website.

## **Class Change**

- Students will be required to change classes, teachers will not.
- Students will not be allowed to loiter in the halls during class change.

## **Student Handbook**

- The updated LCHS Student Handbook will be accessible online at <https://lchs.desotocountyschools.org/>
- Students will be expected to know all of LCHS expectations, rules, policies, and procedures that haven't been affected by COVID-19 and/or have been changed due to COVID-19.

## **Classroom and Instruction**

- Assigned seating charts will be used to minimize interactions between students.
- Once students are seated, they will remain seated.
- Group work will be limited.
- Use of shared material will be limited.
- Students will not be able to leave the classroom unless an admin (or designee) is contacted.

## **Close Contact/Mask Usage**

- Close contact definition provided by state – "Close contact is less than 6ft for longer than 15 minutes without a mask."
- Masks are highly recommended for all students and faculty who will be on campus. This is to stop the spread of COVID-19 and to avoid being quarantined if another student around them is diagnosed with COVID-19
- No bandanas or masks with obscene gestures or language.

## **School Nurse**

- LCHS will have a full-time school nurse (Irene O'Conner) who will be on campus all day. The nurse will handle all sick students and medication and medical emergencies. She will be vital in tracking students for quarantine purposes.
- Mr. Phillips will address symptoms of COVID-19 during the morning announcements
- 1<sup>st</sup> Block teachers will be required to evaluate their students' symptoms of COVID-19 before they start class and communicate any issues with the school nurse.

## **Water Fountains**

- Water fountains will be shut off.
- Students will be encouraged to bring their own water bottles each day.

## **Parent Meetings and Conferences**

- Parent meetings and conferences will be held through technology. No in person meetings unless an emergency and/or approved by administration.
- All visitors wishing to meet at school will be by appointment only, unless an emergency.

## **Check-outs**

- LCHS will utilize a curbside services for parents and visitors who have to be on campus for various reasons including checking-out students. They will be directed to call the school once they are on campus and we will assist them while they wait in their vehicle.

## Miscellaneous

- No guest speakers will be scheduled.
- No assemblies or pep rallies.
- No field trips.
- We will not ring bells (admins will dismiss class over the intercom).
- We will lock our doors at the beginning of the day once students are in class and anyone who needs to enter after that will have to call the school to be let in.
- Any performance-based class will not be offered virtually.
- Freshman Virtual Orientation will be sent out to all upcoming freshmen parents by August 6<sup>th</sup>.
- If distance learning or a hybrid model must be implemented throughout the school year, students will be held accountable for assignment given during this time. Parents and students MUST understand that students will be held accountable for assignments and will be given grades regardless if they choose the VIP (full-time online) or if they choose to come to school, and we are shut-down in part or whole due to COVID-19.

### Everyone must be prepared for intermittent closures.

Parents must have plans in place if LCHS closes or if their children are not able to attend school because of a quarantine situation. Parents are urged to be prepared to change plans within 24 hours if needed, and it is critical that parents have updated email addresses and phone numbers on file. If there is a significant COVID-19 spread, LCHS could be moved to a hybrid, or a distance learning schedule for a specified length of time. Any group of students could be moved to temporary distance learning for a period of time. This could apply to individual classes, individual schools, multiple schools, or the entire school district.

I know this is a lot of information, but I hope this helps parents with planning and decision making as we prepare to reopen LCHS. Please continue to refer to DCS Return-To-Learn plan for additional guidance.

During this time, I am asking all LCHS stakeholders to be positive, understanding, and flexible. Parents and teachers will face many challenges as we figure out the best way to safely educate our children. We are all in this together and we will make the best out of our circumstances! Remember that everything that we have done, are doing, and will do for our students revolves around: Raising the Bar – Every Student. Every Chance. Every Day!

LCHS will have a great year!

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