

Straughn Elementary School

29324 Straughn School Road

Andalusia, AL. 36421

(334) 427-1311



Reopening Plan

2020-2021

August 2020

Dear Straughn Elementary Parents and Families,

On behalf of Straughn Elementary's faculty and staff we would like to say "WELCOME" and "WELCOME BACK"! We have missed you more than you can imagine! School *is not school* without our students.

We are looking forward to a memorable 2020-2021 school year! There will be challenges and changes ahead during this Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, but we will continue to provide a safe, caring, nurturing educational experience.

Please know that Straughn Elementary School will follow the guidance of the CDC, the Alabama State Department of Education, the Alabama Department of Public Health, and the Covington County School System regarding Covid-19. As you well know, these are very uncertain times, and the health and safety guidelines and protocols are subject to change.

It is our hope that the information contained in this document will answer many of your questions about the school year. Feel free to contact school administrators, teachers, the school nurse, and/or the school counselor with any additional questions you may have or if you need clarification.

We're excited about the school year and look forward to having our students back on campus – or virtually - with us!

Go, Straughn Tigers!

Bettye Anne Older, Principal

Daniel Rodgers, Assistant Principal

Traditional Instruction, Remote Instruction and Virtual School Instruction

What does it all mean for Covington County Schools?

Traditional Instruction - Students will return to school with safety measures in place to reduce Covid-19 spread.

- Classroom procedures to reduce contact include maintaining static groups as much as possible in PreK-6, return to forward facing desks/tables. When close contact instruction and interaction occurs, face masks and shields should be worn. Teachers will use good judgment to protect themselves and students when assisting students within close proximity. Middle and High Schools will stagger bells when it is possible.
- Additional procedures for minimizing the spread of Covid-19 can be found in the CCS School Reopening Safety Plan.

Remote Instruction - *[Remote instruction will be used for traditional students who may be absent for extended periods due to Covid-19 sickness and/or quarantine.]* All teachers, Pre-K through 12th grades, will host a Google Classroom. Lessons and resources will be kept current and updated daily or weekly. This platform will create an organized and consistent means of delivering lessons and assignments when students are unable to attend class in person for an extended period. This will not take the place of virtual school and will be used to bridge the learning outside the classroom until the student can safely return to the classroom. Google Classroom can be accessed through computers, tablets, and cell phones. Most material and resources delivered through Google Classroom will function with a minimum of cell service when wi-fi internet is not available. We are currently working on a solution for families without the internet and should have a plan in place by the start of the school year.

- Pre-K through 2nd grade will use Google Classroom as a resource hub for parents. Teachers will organize weekly objectives, lesson material, and resources to assist parents in helping their students stay current on school lessons when extended absences occur. The school will make available opportunities for parents to learn how to utilize Google Classroom.
- 3rd -12th grade will use Google Classroom regularly in the traditional classroom in order to ensure students are familiar with how to navigate and use the platform. Teachers will keep lessons and resources current. Students who are absent from the classroom for extended periods will be able to keep up with the week's objectives, lessons, and assignments until they are able to safely return to school.

Virtual School - Students who will not return to the school building will apply for this option. Students will be set up in a learning system that will be managed by a teacher but may be independent from live teacher instruction. The learning system will deliver modules that students will complete independently. Students will work at their own pace to complete and master grade level standards and objectives. Grades will be calculated based on student performance and mastery of grade level standards. K-8th grade students will use Schoology which is provided by the Alabama State Department of Education. 9-12th grade will use ACCESS or Schoology

courseware, both of which are provided by the Alabama State Department of Education. The decision of which platform used will be made by the school administration. Student grades and ultimately their advancement to the next grade level will depend on their ability to pass the online courses and mastery of grade level standards. Students who choose this option will not be considered for re-entry to the traditional classroom until the beginning end of the next semester for grades 9-12, and the beginning of a grading quarter (9 weeks) for grades K-8.

Straughn Elementary School will have a designated virtual classroom teacher to assign, monitor, assess, and report student instruction. The Virtual Classroom teacher will be in contact with parents/guardians during the time students are enrolled in the virtual school (homeroom teachers will not be responsible for parental contact).

Implementation of Virtual School at Straughn Elementary School will include:

- Parents/guardians will be required to enroll their student(s) in Straughn Elementary School's Virtual School (<https://forms.gle/E7jmNbRFuweeCvvP8>). Students and parents will be required to attend a training to learn about the online instructional program. The virtual teacher is also being trained.
- Students will be given a pacing guide for each nine-week period that they choose to remain at home and use virtual school. This is to help ensure that if students come back they can fit more seamlessly into the classroom. It will also help ensure that students will be ready for state mandated testing in the spring (grades 2-5).
- Virtual school students can access the Accelerated Reader Program during school hours.
- There may be times when students will be required to come onto campus to take assessments, read aloud, or complete face-to-face oral reading fluency tasks with the virtual teacher in an isolated classroom that supports social distancing.
- Kindergarten Virtual School students will be required to come on campus at some point during the first three (3) weeks of school for state required assessments (AlaKids and AIMSWeb).
- Virtual School students in grades 1-3 will be required to come on campus at some point during the first three (3) weeks of school for the state required AIMSWeb assessment.
- Virtual school students will be able to change their schooling preference each 9-week period.
- The virtual school plan is designed for school day learning/hours. The designated teacher will still have school hours, therefore questions submitted after 3:30pm may not be answered until the following day.
- Communication with parents and students will be through email. Communication through text or social media is prohibited.
- Virtual school students can still repeat the current grade level if skills are not mastered.
- Virtual school students who do not consistently complete work may or may not have the option to continue virtual school.
- The Alabama Literacy Law applies to all K-3 virtual school students. Students must be reading at or above grade level before being promoted to the next grade level. A Reading

Improvement Plan will be developed if any K-3 virtual school student exhibits a reading deficiency at any time.

- For students with IEPs, we will make every provision we can to provide resources for educational development and growth at home. The parents will also be given the choice of having related services provided in a one on one setting at the BOE or through teletherapy.
- Some students may be more susceptible to contracting the COVID-19 virus due to underlying health issues. The IEP team could make homebound the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) due to their susceptibility of underlying health issues. Services would be provided through a homebound teacher going into the home, parents/guardians bringing student to the therapy room at the BOE, or a virtual meeting once or twice a week.

Classroom Teacher Assignments

Straughn Elementary School will host its annual Parent-Student Orientation (come and go) on Friday, August 14, 2020; 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Students and parents/guardians will maintain social distancing and will be required to wear a facial covering. We ask that parents/guardians not congregate in hallways during Orientation. **Homeroom teacher assignments are subject to change due to enrollment or health considerations.**

Visitors

Visitors will be limited and by appointment only. All visitors will be required to wear masks and practice social distancing upon entering the building. **THIS INCLUDES THE 1st DAY OF SCHOOL.** Resource teachers and staff will be available to ensure students know where to go.

Student Check-In and Check-Out

If a student is late or tardy arriving to school at or after 7:45 a.m. parents are required to sign them in at the school office. Social distancing is expected during this time as well. If you are checking your child/children out early, please call the school office at (334) 427-1311 and school personnel will walk your child out and provide a clipboard with the sign-out sheet.

Use of Face Coverings

We are currently under a State of Alabama Mandated Face Covering Order (extended through August 2020). All faculty and staff at Straughn Elementary School will wear either a mask or facial shield during the school day when in close proximity to students. Students will not be required to wear masks all day, but will wear masks when they transition to music, library, etc. - **“When we move, we mask”.**

Physical Distancing

The risks associated with close contact are most effectively mitigated by following three practical guidelines—the use of facial coverings, physical distancing and hand washing and sanitizing. Teachers will use good judgment to protect themselves and students when assisting students within close contact, as defined above.

Student classroom desks will be placed 3 to 6 feet apart when feasible. We will make every effort to arrange other furniture to allow more space for distancing. Classroom furniture, class routines, or class schedules may be rearranged to minimize high risk contact students have with other students. However, complete physical distancing over the course of the day is not possible in a traditional school setting. Students will remain with their homeroom class of students, minimizing the crossover with other students and adults. Students will be grouped in “pods” with other classes of the same grade level for snack and PE. Outdoor spaces will be utilized as much as possible and weather permitting. Students who are pulled for intervention, 504, EL, or special education services will be pulled by those specific instructors, using strategies to minimize crossover with other students and adults.

Hand Washing and Sanitizing

Hand washing will be of utmost importance. Students will be encouraged to wash hands frequently following all restroom trips, transitions, and interactions with school materials.

We will provide hand sanitizing stations located at entrances to school buildings for faculty, staff and student use during transitions. Classrooms have been provided with hand sanitizer for individual student use prior to snack or meals.

Sanitizing and Disinfecting

High touch areas such as door handles, sinks and faucet handles, and other shared surfaces will be disinfected daily and as often as possible to maintain sanitary conditions. Covington County Schools has purchased its schools sanitizing foggers for use in classrooms and other high traffic areas to be used after students leave school for the day.

Water fountains will be available but we strongly encourage students to bring their own water bottles to use. Please write your child’s name on the water bottle. Custodians will keep all water fountains sanitized/disinfected throughout the school day.

Attendance

The first line of defense for preventing the spread of infection in our schools is the home defense. Parents and families should be familiar with the symptoms associated with infection and keep students at home if any of these symptoms are evident.

These symptoms include:

- Fever of 100.4
- Cough, runny nose, or sinus congestion
- Trouble breathing or persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- Abdominal pain or stomach ache
- Diarrhea or vomiting

COVID-19 Positive Exposure:

If a student or faculty/staff member is diagnosed positive for COVID-19, the parents or guardians of any student with risk of infection due to close contact, **as defined above**, will be notified. Parents and guardians will be advised to contact the student's healthcare provider to be assessed and given further directives.

COVID-19 Diagnosis:

A student or faculty/staff member with a **positive COVID-19 diagnosis** will be subject to a 14-day quarantine and will follow the guidance of their healthcare provider and the Alabama Department of Public Health. The person can return to school once they are symptom free and complete a 14-day quarantine.

Students in quarantine will continue to receive assignments from classroom teachers using Google Classroom. In the case of a large group quarantine or a school closure, students will still receive instruction and assignments from the traditional learning model's classroom teacher(s) utilizing Google Classroom. The rigor and pace of learning will continue through quarantine or closure and be supported by classroom teachers. Students who are ill or symptomatic during quarantine will receive extended time to complete assignments.

Special Areas (Library, Music, Virtual Classroom)

Students will go to the **library** as a class during their weekly library time and can check out library books. Upon return, books will be placed in a temporary book isolation and/or sanitized with a portable UV sterilizer.

Students will continue to learn and enjoy **music** this school year with our music teacher. Weekly instruction will be provided in the music classroom. Students will use hand sanitizer prior to entering the music classroom.

The **Virtual Classroom** will be open and available. All virtual reality equipment, laptops, cameras, iPads, etc. will be wiped down before and after student use. No more than one classroom at a time will be permitted to use the Virtual Classroom. *NOTE: The Virtual Classroom is NOT the same as the Virtual School option.*

Physical Education (PE)

Daily physical education is required by the State of Alabama for elementary students. Class homerooms will remain distanced as feasible. Outside PE and non-equipment activities will be utilized as much as possible with weather permitting. Students will use hand sanitizer upon entry into PE (gym or playground) and as they leave PE. PE equipment will be sanitized between PE classes. Student face coverings will not be required during PE. Students in grades 2-5 will still be participating in the Alabama Physical Fitness Test (APFT) twice a year. We have not been advised if Virtual School students in grades 2-5 will be required to participate in the APFT.

Arrival

Students will be able to enter the school buildings each morning beginning at 7:20 a.m. Students who will not eat breakfast will report directly to their homerooms. Students who wish to eat breakfast will travel to the lunchroom and sit in designated areas.

Buses will unload one at a time and students will be directed which way to go in order to prevent large groups of students from congregating in hallways. Parents should NOT park and walk their students to the building, as no visitors are allowed in classrooms or hallways. **THIS DOES INCLUDE THE 1st DAY OF SCHOOL.**

Dismissal

Students will be dismissed from their homerooms and/or hallways in cohorts instead of common areas utilized in previous school years. Resource teachers will assist with dismissal. Student dismissal from individual classrooms will be staggered. Teachers will walk students to dismissal locations to support distancing requirements.

Buses

Students should be screened for symptoms in the morning by their parent or guardian prior to boarding the school bus. Facial coverings are recommended. Students will be required to face forward at all times and will have assigned seats. Windows will remain open on buses as weather allows. Bus drivers will sanitize bus seats, hand rails, etc. before and after each route. Buses will be loaded in a manner to prevent students from congregating in large crowds.

Breakfast and Lunch

All meals will be pre-packaged. Breakfast and lunch will be served utilizing social distancing for lines and seating. Students in grades Pre-K, Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd and 3rd grades will eat breakfast in the lunchroom and/or gym and students in 4th and 5th grades will eat breakfast in their homerooms. Students in grades Pre-K through 3rd grade will eat lunch in the lunchroom daily with a staggered lunch schedule. Students in 4th and 5th grades will eat lunch in the lunchroom and/or their classrooms. Virtual School students will need to call ahead for meals so that the lunchroom can prepare. These meals will be picked up in the school office.

Extended Day Program (After School Program)

Straughn Elementary's Extended Day Program (for grades K-8) will operate as scheduled with proper distancing and cohort groups utilized as feasible. Afterschool schedules and student interactions are being prepared to minimize student crossover and to meet social distancing requirements. We will follow the regular day school protocols for hand washing, sanitizing of equipment, etc.

Straughn Elementary School will communicate with
parents/guardians through:

School System and School websites

School social media page (Face Book)

Remind App

Personal telephone calls

Zoom and other presentation platforms

Google Classroom

School Cast (rapid notification system)

Questions? Call Straughn Elementary at (334) 427-1311.

For additional information please visit Covington County Schools' parent document or the Alabama Department of Education listed below:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1yuE9YVSATjCTB6DmO4dIVT16M1t7TVc3s6njaUoeYts/edit?usp=sharing>

The Alabama Department of Education's Coronavirus Information and Alabama Schools' Reopening Guide at www.alsde.edu