July 21, 2020

Dear Families, 

The upcoming school year is approaching and all of us are faced with challenges to prepare for it. We are creating processes for the restart of our educational process with the safety of our students, families, staff and community in mind. During this planning process, we have been utilizing the guidelines from The Columbiana County Health Department, The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines, Governor DeWine’s recommendations, The American Academy of Pediatrics recommendations, The Ohio Department of Education guidelines, staff survey results, and parent survey results. These resources are valuable during this time and have our students and family’s needs at the front.

Our plans are being developed to allow each family to send students back to the building, full time face to face in the fall or to access learning through an online platform at home with the support of a Southern Local Teacher. We understand that each student is unique and each student will have different needs and situations. We will continue to monitor any changes in the Ohio COVID-19 Risk Level designation, and will comply with any escalating orders. This includes face covering recommendations and possible continuation of online learning during high risk periods.

Regardless whether your family chooses face to face instruction in the buildings or the online learning platform from home, your student(s) will remain a Southern Local Indian. Our staff will continue to support their development and learning with high quality education, meals, extra-curricular activities, and social emotional support. The information below contains a more detailed description of the two available learning options. To assist us in continuing our preparation for the school year, please review the options and complete the online registration link on the district website and district Facebook page by August 3rd. We will continue to provide you with updated information regarding your chosen educational setting once we have accurate student numbers.

Sincerely,
The Southern Local Team

Please use the QR Code to access the registration form to select your child’s option. Hover over the QR code with your smart phone camera. Or you can access the form through the district website and Facebook page. Please complete the registration selection by August 3rd.
Southern Local Schools
Fall Learning Opportunities 2020

Below are the descriptions of the two learning opportunities available for fall 2020. Once your family decides the most appropriate option for your student(s), we expect that your student(s) will continue with that option for the first semester of the school year, which runs for the entire first semester in order to make it the best possible educational experience for each student. We will offer an opportunity at a later date to adjust your decision for second semester (begins in mid-January) should you decide to do so.

OPTION A: IN-PERSON CLASSES
- Students will attend school in person, during normal hours and days
- All Special Education students will receive their specially designed instruction related services as outlined in their IEP or 504
- Increased disinfecting and cleaning will occur
- Every effort will be made to keep students 3-6 ft. apart (American Academy of Pediatrics and CDC recommendations)
- All students in grades K-12 are encouraged to use a face covering and may be required to use a face covering during close contact activities (ex. Buses, Labs, Partner, Nurse Stations or Small Group Work) or other high risk times.
- All faculty and staff will be required to use a face covering
- Parents should monitor their children for COVID-19 symptoms daily and keep any symptomatic children home
- Any students showing COVID-19 symptoms at school will have their temperature taken, be required to wear a mask, and isolate in a monitoring room while the parent/guardian is notified to pick the child up (as per the Health Department Guidelines)
- Students will have access to hand sanitizer and/or hand washing areas during the day.
- Water fountains will only be used to fill water bottles- no direct drinking will be permitted
- Guidelines and safety protocols may adjust based on the Emergency Level (color) designation and/or orders from the Governor.

OPTION B: ONLINE LEARNING PLATFORM
- Students will attend classes Monday through Friday at home via a computer. Students will be expected to login daily and complete all tasks, activities/assignments and assessments through the online platform (Virtual Learning Academy, Google Classroom, and other online resources).
- Students will be receiving a Chromebook for use while online learning.
- Special Education students will receive their specially designed instruction and related services as designated in their IEP or 504 via the online platform.
- Students will be provided a bagged breakfast and lunch.
- Online students will have support and monitoring from a Southern Local Teacher.