



August 1, 2020

## **Welcome Back!**

Dear SCS Family:

Welcome back as we begin our new 2020-2021 school year. I hope you have had a restful summer and are ready to make this year one of the best ever. With the start of this year, we have many opportunities and challenges ahead of us to improve the lives of our students.

We would like to send a special welcome to our new faculty and staff members. Thank you for choosing to work in our wonderful school district.

Our district's theme for this upcoming year is: "Educating in the New Normal." As you know, we have decided to offer virtual learning for the 1<sup>st</sup> nine weeks of school. To help ensure student success in this new year, we must work diligently every day to achieve our goal of graduating every student college and career ready.

We are planning on taking our virtual education to a new level in the Sumter County School District!

Each school year brings many challenges, rewards and moments of happiness and disappointments. As we strive to give every child a quality education, I encourage you to take advantage of every opportunity to help improve the lives of our students this year. Working together as a team, I know that we can accomplish this and so much more!

As a leader, during these challenging times, making hard decisions can be difficult and unpopular. My top priority, along with the board of education, is to take care of the needs of our students, faculty, staff, and community. I ask you to join me in making this your number one priority as well.

I do understand that for our faculty and staff, that childcare can be an issue; therefore, we are allowing our teachers and paraprofessionals to bring their school-aged children to school if the need arises. Please note that your child or children must stay in your classroom and cannot be wandering the hallways. They cannot socialize or mingle with other children in the building due to COVID-19. Your child or children may go outside for an occasional breath of fresh air but again, they cannot socialize with other students.

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Teachers, you will be responsible for cleaning and sanitizing your classrooms daily. The custodial staff will clean the hallways, high traffic and high touch areas throughout the school.

Please report to work at 8:00 A.M. on Wednesday, August 5, 2020 to begin our new school year. Your work-week schedule is Monday-Thursday at your respective school. This includes all departments. On Fridays, you will work from home. This will allow our custodial staffs the opportunity to provide a deep cleaning throughout the buildings.

Dress attire is professional but comfortable. Please wear masks while walking throughout the buildings; once you are in your classrooms, you may remove your mask. This is to prevent the spread of germs.

Remember: Everyone has a job to do and must be fully utilized and assigned a "ROLE." Our principals will be making sure everyone has a "ROLE!" Since we are going virtual, we must take this serious and communication must be at an "all time" high. Specifically, teachers and paraprofessionals (in their support roles), must take a more proactive approach in making sure that there is total communication across the spectrum with our parents and students. **\*PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NO EXCUSE FOR NOT MAKING SURE THIS IS TAKING PLACE.**

I am thankful for each one of you and I appreciate having such a talented and dedicated staff. Together, we will continue to improve our service to the students and families of our community.

Best wishes for a successful new year of learning in 2020-2021!

Sincerely,  
*Dr. Torrance Choates*  
Superintendent