



Building on A Tradition of Excellence

Vidalia City Schools Reopening Plan for 2020/21 School Year

To all of our parents and students, the system recognizes the last few months have generated many concerns regarding the upcoming school year. We thank you for your patience as we factor in many variables as we develop an action plan to minimize the impact of COVID-19 and its effects on our school days. Based on ever-evolving information, this plan could change at any time.

Basic Information

- The Vidalia School System is scheduled to begin classes on Friday, August 7, 2020.
- The temperature of students and staff will be checked and monitored each day. Staff or students that exhibit a temperature of 100.4 degrees and above will not be allowed to teach or attend classes. Staff, as well as students, will be required to provide a medical release before being allowed to return. If a student exhibits a temperature during the day, the student will be quarantined in the nurse's station, and parents will be notified.

Although we will be making an effort to limit guests, essential guests will be asked to perform a temperature check as well.

Students and or staff that make the school aware of a positive COVID-19 test will be expected to quarantine for 14 days.

- School nurses will be in ongoing communications with the local health department and state Department of Public Health officials regarding the changes in guidance that are continually evolving.
- In the event the schools are made aware of a positive COVID-19 test, the system will immediately contact the Department of Public Health. Due to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), the school system will not provide a specific name of those testing positive. Still, it will make parents and staff aware of positive cases. We will also assist the Department of Community Health with contact tracing efforts.
- Students and staff are welcome to wear masks during the school day.
- Although every concession will be made to not allow for large groups to congregate in buildings, the concept of true social distancing will be difficult in school. Plans, are in the works for K-8 to keep groups of students together as the opportunity presents itself through the following:
 1. Students will report directly to their classes in the morning
 2. Students will participate in recess by individual classes

3. Provisions are also being made to limit numbers in the lunchrooms; individual classes will also travel to activities as a class (PE, Art, Music, etc.).

Considering the nature of the high school and the block schedule, students will be transitioning three times during the day. Plans are being made to have different access points in the mornings to ensure that temperatures are taken in a timely manner. Additional lunchtimes have been added to the schedule to assist with limiting numbers in the cafeteria.

Field trips, assemblies, and large gatherings are suspended until further notice. Athletic programs will follow the guidelines and protocols set forth by the GHSA.

Virtual Option

The Vidalia City School System is prepared to offer parents and students a virtual instructional option for the fall semester of 2020. The virtual option will be made available to any student in grades K-12. The staff at J. D. Dickerson Primary and Sally D. Meadows Elementary schools will monitor K-5 instruction. 6-12 students will have the option of using "APEX" an online curriculum that will allow students to complete assignments individually to earn credit for the fall semester. More information regarding the virtual option will be shared at a later date. Students and parents will be required to complete an application and contract for the purpose of staffing before the beginning of school.

Transportation

VCBOE will continue to provide transportation for all students. We are currently making an effort to find current personnel to assist with monitoring on all of our buses. We want to ask that when possible, parents remain at the bus stop with their students. There will be an effort made to temp students before entering the bus. If the temperature of a student measures above 100.4 degrees, the student will not be allowed to ride the bus that day. However, in the event we are unable to return the student to an adult safely, the student will be asked to wear a mask, sit in isolation, and report to the nurse upon arrival at school. Parents will be notified at this time.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Vidalia City School Board would like to ask parents who have the means or time to transport your student to school in the fall to please do so. This could allow for more social distancing efforts on the bus and reduce the risk of exposure for all involved. **All buses will be disinfected after each route.**

School Sanitizing Efforts

Efforts will be made to disinfect each building daily. The school system has purchased both fog and misting equipment that will allow for staff to not only disinfect within the buildings but the playgrounds as well. Water fountains will be closed for public use. Staff and students are encouraged to bring water bottles from home. Hand sanitizing stations will be available at multiple locations in all buildings.