

Hernando Hills Elementary Return-To-Learn Plan

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Desoto County Schools has released the district wide Return to School Plan. Hernando Hills Elementary will adhere to the guidelines set in this document. In addition, the following changes will be made at Hernando Hills Elementary School this year. The purpose of the changes is to ensure that we are doing our part to keep all students and staff members healthy and safe by reducing the risk of exposure. If you have any questions regarding this document, please do not hesitate to contact the office staff.

Distance Learning

DCS is now offering the option of distance learning to all students. Please refer to the DCS website for guidance on how to register. Questions about the program can be emailed to: distancelearning@dcsms.org.

- HHES will have full time VIP (Virtual Instruction Plan) teachers in the building.
- Students will have the option to enter or exit the program each 9 weeks.
- Students will receive services such as Special Education, Spotlight, and EL. (IEP meetings will be held for Special Education students to determine how to best service these students virtually.)
- Distance learning students will receive the same instructional minutes per day as students in a traditional classroom.
- Teachers will provide office hours when they will meet virtually with students.
- VIP students will be responsible for the same assignments and grades as students in the traditional classroom.
- Grab and go lunches are available for students enrolled in distance learning.
- **Schoology** will be used as the platform for all distance learning by all teachers, students, parents and administrators.

Arrival/Dismissal

- We will have staggered times and locations for arrival and dismissal.
- Buses will unload at 7:00 on the north end of the building
- Car riders will be allowed to unload beginning at 7:10 (late bell is at 7:55)
 - 2nd grade students will unload in the front of the building and enter through the main entrance.
 - 3rd grade students will unload on the south side of the building and enter through the orange hall.
- Parents will not be allowed to walk students into the building.
- All students will go directly to their classrooms. Any student who eats breakfast at school will get a grab and go bag and eat in the classroom.
- Buses will begin dismissing at 2:00.

- Car riders will start dismissing at 2:30.
 - 2nd grade car riders will dismiss from the main entrance in front of the building.
 - 3rd grade car riders will dismiss from the north side of the building.

*Please see our website for our arrival/dismissal map.

Cafeteria:

- Students will walk through the cafeteria line and pick up a grab and go bag for breakfast. They will then take breakfast and eat in the classroom.
- Only half capacity will be allowed in the lunchroom.
- Classes will alternate weeks to eat in the cafeteria and in the classrooms.
- Students will be spaced out in every other seat in the cafeteria.
- Students will not touch keypads in the cafeteria.
- No lunch visitors will be allowed until further notice.
- Lunch tables will be sanitized between classes.
- All students will enter through one door and exit another, keeping all student traffic flowing in one direction.
- While in the cafeteria, students will sit with the same students they are seated with in the classroom.

Academics:

- Academic minutes have been reduced to allow for more time to sanitize.
- No books will be checked out from the library at this time.
- Classroom libraries can be used, but with specific procedures in place.
- Students will not have any shared supplies.
- Seating charts will ensure that students are seated next to the same people in all circumstances. For example: activity, classroom, or cafeteria
- Students with full classrooms will be in desks all facing one direction, not tables.
- Small groups instruction is allowed, but students will face the teacher (not each other) and the teacher will wear a mask. Small groups will only change students at breaks. (Labor Day, Columbus Day, Thanksgiving etc.)
- Manipulatives must be sanitized between uses.

Recess/Activity

- Classes will be separated and assigned different locations outside for recess.
- All activity classes, except for library, will be held in their respective activity rooms at this time.
- Activity rooms will be sanitized between classes.
- Activity schedules have been modified to avoid classes in the hall at the same time.
- Activity teachers will utilize the same seating charts as classroom teachers, and students will be spaced in the same manner.

Other:

- The nurse's station has been relocated so that any student who is not feeling well can be isolated from other students.
- Any student who leaves school due to illness will exit from the orange hall rather than the main office.
- Classes will not be allowed to congregate in the hall.
- Only one class at a time will wait to use restrooms.
- Visitors in the office will be limited to 2 at a time.
- We will not have visitors such as guest readers or parent volunteers in the building until further notice.
- Special events and extracurricular activities are cancelled until further notice.
- Meet the Teacher Night and Open House have been cancelled. Other arrangements are being made.
- While daily wellness checks will be done at school, we ask that parents conduct a wellness check each morning on your child before bringing them to school. If your child exhibits any of the following symptoms, please keep him/her home and contact your health care provider:
 - Fever, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, chills, body aches, muscle pain, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, unusual fatigue or irritability, stomach pain, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, unusual pink/red eyes
- Masks are recommended for students, but not mandatory.
- Students and staff will be washing hands and sanitizing frequently.

Please know that HHES is making every effort in this uncertain time to keep your child safe at school. The decision to enroll in the traditional classroom or in the virtual program is a personal decision, and there is no wrong answer. We understand that the Return-To-School Plan may not be ideal for every specific situation. DCS and HHES are committed to providing the most positive learning experience possible for your child under the circumstances given. If you have questions, please feel free to email me at wendy.michael@dcsms.org.

Thank you,

Wendy Michael