

A Note from the Superintendent of Education

In the world of uncertainty that we are a part of today, plans continue to change. Governor Kay Ivey has extended the mask order through August 31st along with a mandate for masks to be worn by students 8 years old and above. What will Coosa County Schools look like for the beginning of the 2020 – 2021 school year?

A recommendation was presented to the Coosa County Board to adjust the calendar to reflect TEACHERS beginning on August 17th and STUDENTS beginning VIRTUALLY on August 31st. The VIRTUAL classes will last through the first nine weeks with reevaluation to begin during the sixth week to determine continuation of VIRTUAL or opportunities for face to face or hybrid learning opportunities.

Because more funds have been released by the Alabama State Department of Education, commercial grade mifis have been purchased. The commercial grade mifis will reach more towers to provide more service to homes. Students requiring the need for mifis will be assigned a device PER HOME and ONLY school purchased technology will be allowed to connect. The system will monitor connectivity closely and expectations will be followed in the event another device is connected illegally to school owned property.

A student's day will look like it would if actually attending school. Students will log on at the assigned time for each class and MUST login each day and complete assignments daily in order to be counted present. In the event a child is sick or unable to login, the school MUST be contacted with an excuse and a doctor's excuse will be required after the three parent notes just as established in the attendance policy.

Working parents may have younger students who are unable to "attend class" at the designated times. Each day's lessons will be posted into the learning management system, SEESAW or Google Classroom, utilized by the grade level. This way, working parents will be able to monitor students as needed for each day's lessons.

This situation has so many more factors involved other than the instruction of the students and this option is not the first choice of the school system. Due to the vast scenarios of what could occur in the school system, this is the approach BEST for the system at this time. Communication will be the KEY to the success of your child(ren). This has been stated from the

very beginning. We are working diligently to release the full plan to all by the end of next week.

A date for enrollment drop-off and MANY other PICKUP supplies from the school will be established very soon. We are still waiting on confirmation of arrival dates for technology needs and we want everyone to have ALL equipment and textbooks needed to begin the week of August 31st.

The August 31st week will be a week of one-to-one meetings with parents, teachers AND students in order for each teacher to set expectations and to familiarize parents with the chromebooks and learning management system, SEESAW or Google Classroom. Please ENSURE that you include in your enrollment package a valid telephone number and email address. Voicemails should be set up to receive messages in the event a teacher is trying to contact a parent. Parents will be asked to join REMIND for teacher and school communication as well.

Again, this is where we are at this point in time. We will be following our plan UNLESS advisement changes and other items need to be addressed or changed. The BEST piece of advice I can give to parents at this time is to have an ALTERNATIVE PLAN of action for your children if by chance you receive a message that school is closing or a classroom in quarantine. This is where we are in this pandemic. Having a back-up plan has always been the best piece of advice for any situation.

Once again, as the Instructional Leader of the Coosa County School System, with the support of all stakeholders: administrators, faculty, staff, students, businesses and community, I will promote an environment that supports the diverse needs of all students. This will include, but not be limited to, effectively planning for system improvements by collecting, analyzing and interpreting data, problem-solving, and allocating resources to address the most critical needs identified. Additionally, I will seek supports to enhance the unique and diverse characteristics of the county by creating and sustaining opportunities for more school-community relations. I am proud to call Coosa County my home and especially proud to lead the efforts in moving the Coosa County School System forward. Stay tuned...