

Dear Charger Family,

The DCS Return-To-Learn Plan has been released with guidelines for a safe return to school. I know that as parents and guardians, you have questions about what this will look like at SES. We want to provide you with as many as answers as possible to clarify policies and procedures and to ultimately create a safe educational environment for all students and staff.

What you need to know first is that the staff at SES is excited to start back to school, whether it be in person or online. We are up for the challenge and are ready to support our SES Charger students academically and emotionally.

### **Southaven Elementary School Return-To-Learn Plan**

1. **Student Safety:** We will maintain social distancing to the greatest extent possible at Southaven Elementary. Best practices and considerations as outlined by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Mississippi Department of Health (MDH), and the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) will be in place starting the first day of school. We have procedures in place for the following:
  - Arrival
  - Dismissal
  - Breakfast/Lunch
  - Restroom
  - Supplies
  - Transitions in the classroom
  - Transitions in the building
  
2. **Masks:** Masks are strongly encouraged for students and staff but are not required. SES will not be supplying student masks, but Nurse Lisa will have some available for students that may be sick.
  
3. **Supplies:**
  - Students will not share supplies, all supplies will be labeled and stored individually in the classroom.
  - Students will be able to bring a backpack to keep their belongings.
  - Please add a water bottle to your supply list. To eliminate the need for the water fountain, please provide your child with a water bottle than can be refilled.
  
4. **Academic and Behavioral Expectations:** The academic and behavioral expectations for DCS and SES will remain the same. SES will continue to follow the DCS Code of Discipline. All SES staff members will provide the best environment for learning and we look forward to our continued partnership with parents and guardians.

**5. Arrival:**

- School doors will open at 8:05. For everyone's safety, students must remain in their cars until the doors open at 8:05. Do not drop off students before 8:05. Every DCS school has a new start/end time to address transportation needs and allow for social distancing.
- Car Riders – SES staff will be on duty in the morning and afternoons, however we will be unable to open car doors.
- Only students will be allowed into the building. Parents are not permitted to walk students to class.
- Students will go directly to class upon entering the building.
- All exterior doors will be locked at 8:40am each day. Late arrivals will need to call the main office to gain entrance to the school.

**6. Dismissal:**

- Car riders will dismiss first – start time 3:00pm
- The same procedure of not touching door handles will apply at dismissal.
- Car rider tags will be handed out the first day of school. It must be completed with the child's full name and grade.
- Car riders will remain in the classroom until dismissed.
- Walkers will be dismissed after car riders, buses will dismiss last
- Early check-outs – we will use a curbside check out for parents who need to check out students early from school. Parents will call the main office once they arrive on campus. Parents will remain in their vehicle. There will be no check-outs after 2:30pm.
- Dismissal procedure are subject to change, we want to create an environment that is safe and efficient for all students and staff.

**7. Lunch/Breakfast:**

- Breakfast will be grab and go (eat in classroom) and free for all students.
- Lunch will be served to all students on a daily basis.
- Social distancing guidelines require we reduce the number of students eating in the cafeteria to 50% capacity.
- Kindergarten students will eat lunch in the cafeteria every day.
- Grades 1-5 will be on a weekly rotation with half of each grade eating in the cafeteria and the other half eating in the classroom.
- No visitors will be allowed to eat lunch with students
- No "outside" lunches or fast food will be dropped for students
- Store bought cupcakes/treats may be sent with the student on his/her birthday.

**8. Recess:** Students will have recess time with their class. Each class will have a designated time and place for recess. Students will remain with their class for recess.

9. **Activities:** All students will attend an activity daily. Students will go to activity with their class while practice social distancing.
10. **Distance Learning:** You have options! Please refer to the DCS website to get guidance for enrollment and the requirements for registration. The deadline for registration is Wednesday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>. While your student will not be on campus if you choose distance learning, they will receive instruction from a certified teacher at SES. Attendance will be taken as well as grades. We understand that this is a personal decision based on the needs of your family, and there is no right or wrong decision. Parents can register by completing an application online at <https://www.desotocountyschools.org/distancelearning> . Questions about distance learning can be sent to [distancelearning@dcsms.org](mailto:distancelearning@dcsms.org) . Students who participate in distance learning will not attend activity, recess, or lunch with their peers.

While SES intends to begin the year with the traditional school model, you must be prepared for individual students or groups of students to shift to distance learning during the school year. Frequent changes could be made throughout the school year based on the spread of COVID-19 in our schools and community.

11. **Schoology:** Schoology is the distance learning platform for DCS. All students, parents, staff, and administrators will access to Schoology and be required to use it on a daily basis. Your student will receive login information and this will also be the primary method of communication with students and parents. Please make sure that your email address is up to date so that you will receive up to date information.