

# Council Traditional School

2020 - 2021

## Welcome Back to School

Council Comets, we are looking forward to your return back to school. It has been a long break from school, and we know things have been unpredictable. However, seeing each student will be delightful, and we plan to make our school year as positive and safe as possible. Every staff member has returned with only a few changes to highlight. Mrs. Gavin is now our Counselor; Mrs. Renegar will be a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher and Director of the Extended Day Program. A special welcome to our only new teacher **Mrs. Tanya Simmons**. Mrs. Simmons will be our very own onsite Pace teacher. All other positions and grade level teachers have remained the same for 20-21. That is exciting news for all of us, as it makes a difference when a staff is established and familiar with Council families in these uncharted times in our world. Council is an International Primary Years Program, an IB World School. We will start our self-study this year virtually to continue our status as an authorized IB Program.

**Registration:** Thanks to everyone for pre-registering through the website this year by the cut-off date of June 1<sup>st</sup>. However, if you have not completed this process please do so ASAP! Our new student orientations have been moving along very well. The steps we put in place for social distancing have worked out with very small groups of students. We are excited about our new students and welcome them once again to our Council family!

## **COVID-19 Updates:**

The Mobile County Public School System has requested the opportunity to communicate the specifics for all schools through their communication department next week. Therefore, our information in this communication will pertain to CTS's road back to school. We realize parents are clamoring for information to help them make informed decisions for their children.

## **Council Parents/Students Road Back to School:**

All communication will be sent virtually, this includes the opening of school bulletin and all biweekly bulletins. We will post our parent and student handbook on our website the first week of school.

***“Meet the Teacher”*** August 6, 2020. Parents will have the options of a recorded session of the teachers’ presentation. Parents will receive an email of the presentation if the parent selects not to have a face-to-face meeting. The teachers will communicate with the new parents/students by phone call and follow-up by email to welcome their new students. The students will receive a call on August 4<sup>th</sup> and/or 5<sup>th</sup>, as this is the official date for teachers to return. Teachers will provide an overview of their classroom routines and procedures. We will be using the Inow information for 20-21 to contact parents.

**Face- to-face Meet the Teacher Schedule;** PLEASE adhere to the times listed. We are following CDC guidelines for smaller groups in different areas of the school.

**Session 1 Student’s last name A-L**

Pre-k, Kindergarten, 2nd grade and 5th grades 8:00-8:30

Grades 1, 3 and 4 1:00p.m.-1:30p.m.

**Session 2 Student’s last names M-Z**

Pre-K and Kindergarten, 2nd grade and 5th grades. 9:00-9:30

Grades 1, 3 and 4 2:00p.m. -2:30p.m.

**COVID-19 Safety First:**

Safety guidelines set forth by the CDC and embraced by MCPSS will be adhered to by Council School. The district will provide training for all employees on procedures related to COVID-19 situations that may arise on campus. We have started setting up our school with “six feet apart” signs placed all over the building and hand washing stations in each classroom and hallway. Teachers and students will be encouraged to wear face coverings. We have Council Comets facemasks for sale for \$2 each. The special teachers (Spanish, Art, Music, and Science lab) will travel to the students’ classrooms this year. The students will change for their P.E. classes which will primarily be held outside. Ms. Hackshaw and Ms. Timmons will separate the classes as not to have an overcrowded gym, if lessons must be held inside due to inclement weather.

**Academic/ Instructional Platform:**

**Schoology is the new platform for instruction. (Both face-to-face and virtual instruction for students will be adhered to this school year).**

This computerized program includes all of the subjects that will be taught to the students. We are moving towards one-to-one technology for all students. This platform was paid for by the Alabama State Department of Education for all Alabama schools. The district will have a website for parents to become acquainted with the program in the coming weeks. I will provide a virtual parent meeting on July 30 using WebEx. More specific information about the inner workings of the program will be provided to you during that meeting. On July 30, 2020, the morning meeting will be for grades pre-k through 2 @10 a.m. and the evening meeting for grades 3-5 @3:00 p.m. Please accept the invite closer to the actual date of the meeting. This will be a PowerPoint presentation with the opportunity for parents to email any additional questions to me. Teachers and administrators currently are being scheduled for training.



### **Fees and supplies:**

School fees have been listed on the school's website (Use the e-Funds for Schools icon shown above) along with the grade level supply lists. Once you log in and enter your student's last name and student number, select the option to pay student fees on the left side of the screen. The fees specific to your student should appear.

### **How we arrive and dismiss from school: BIG CHANGES**

Students should not arrive before 7:45 each morning (time change!). This is a big change for parents this year, as we will not serve breakfast in the cafeteria. Breakfast and lunch will be served in each child's classroom. Please let your van service know this information (only if you use a van service for your child) so that we will not have students dropped off early. We do not want the students on campus early unless they are in extended day as a paid customer. We have been advised not to have large groups of students in a holding place for early drop off. Please parents, make the necessary arrangements for your children now! All teachers are to be in their classrooms by 7:45; therefore, the students will be able to go directly to their rooms when we open the doors at 7:45. We will **not** open doors at 7:30. The cafeteria staff will deliver breakfast for students wanting to eat.

*Official* school take in time is 8:00 a.m. *Official* dismissal time is 3:00 p.m. However, because we must follow social distancing guidelines dismissal of students will be staggered. Smaller groups of students will be dismissed as follows:

1. Announcements 2:00

2. Bus 2:15
3. Vans 2:20
4. Virginia Street 2:30
5. Car riders 2:45

No early dismissals after 2:00p.m. This will be strictly enforced.

Attendance rules are the same; however, virtual students' attendance will be addressed in the attendance information coming from the district. We will have all hands on deck during the first two weeks of school for both arrival and dismissal, and our staff will assist with the process. All students should be off the campus by 3:15. Teacher supervision will be over as teachers leave at 3:15.

**No activities after school for Elementary schools until further notice!**

There will be no after school activities unless the students has been enrolled for extended day. There will be no after school tutoring. The intervention teachers will work with all students needing assistance virtually. This applies to students who are on and off campus.

Next steps for parents:

1. Look for Facebook, twitter, and email blasts from the district "ROAD BACK to SCHOOL"
2. Add two more supplies to your list
  - A clear water bottle labeled with your child's name
  - Computer bag for your child to take his or her laptop to and from school
3. Answer your phone for surveys from the district
4. The registrar returns on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Email her or Ms. Alexander if your email or phone number has changed [ablackmore@mcpss.com](mailto:ablackmore@mcpss.com) or [halexand@mcpss.com](mailto:halexand@mcpss.com)  
A BIG thanks to Ms. Blackmore. Although she has been off for the summer, whenever I send her a request to help a parent, she has been extremely cooperative. In addition, many of our teachers are helping from home throughout the summer as well. We have an amazing group of teachers and parents. The PTA has also tried to help with communicating and making sure everyone stays informed. Thank you everyone! We will stay POSITIVE in 20-21. That's my motto! 😊
5. If you missed the district's survey, someone will be calling you next week to ask you questions.

6. Please always check our website under parents for communications that you may have missed.

Finally, know that we have been working tirelessly to think of ways to educate our students carefully. We will do our very BEST!

#### Parent Help Needed!!

One of our talented teachers is building sneeze guards for her classroom tables. We have tables for students' seating all over the school. We would like to make sure that we have this safe guard for all of our students. We need volunteers to help with this project. Please email me if you think that you can help [halexand@mcpss.com](mailto:halexand@mcpss.com). Once we purchase the material, I will set up the process for completing the project. Thank you, Ms. A.