



SWSC

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Back to School Plan 2020-21

Updated details on the Southwest School Corporation plan to return to school on August 11, 2020. Updated August 7, 2020

SWSC Families,

The SWSC staff is excited to begin the 2020-2021 school year on Tuesday, August 11th. As we prepare for the arrival of our students, we want to assure parents that the health and safety of our students has been the priority in planning. SWSC will continue to follow the guidelines provided by the state of Indiana and local health officials and make adjustments accordingly.

In the event that a school closure is deemed necessary, we want to remind parents that it is important to have a care plan in place for your child. A school closure may be necessary for various reasons and could be on short notice. It could be classroom specific, building specific, or corporation wide. It could be short term; it could be long term. There are many factors that will determine how we proceed with the 2020-21 school year. We have also developed alternative schedules that may be employed to help reduce contact, promote social distancing, and improve our online learning experience. The goal of these alternative schedules are to continue with some in-person instruction opposed to moving totally to online learning.

As I have stressed this year is going to require patience, flexibility, and I am adding cooperation from all stakeholders. We are all looking forward to returning to school and seeing our students, but without cooperation that will be difficult. We must all do our part and follow the guidelines and directives that have been issued to open our schools. If we can all do our part and follow the rules, we are more likely to remain open.

There will be many challenges and changes as we move through this school year and we determine what is working and what is not working. This will require parents, teachers, staff, and students to have patience. I will do my best to make the decisions I believe are necessary to promote the safety of all stakeholders and provide a quality education to our students. No matter what happens if we work together we can make this year a success!

The SWSC staff is looking forward to the first day of school on Tuesday August 11th. We will continue to communicate any updates with parents via email, the school website and social media. Thank you for your continued support of the SWSC.

Chris Stitzle, Superintendent

BACK TO SCHOOL REMINDERS & UPDATES

Students are required to wear face coverings/masks in grades 3-12 when social distancing can't be observed. Students in grades K-2 are highly recommended to wear face coverings/face shields when social distancing can't be observed.

- Students and staff will each be provided with two (2) face coverings.
- **TIMES WHEN FACE COVERINGS/MASKS WILL BE REQUIRED**
 1. While riding on school transportation all students in grades K-12.
 2. During transitions between classes. Grades 3-12 required/ Grades K-2 - Highly Recommended.
 3. When entering and leaving the school building. Grades 3-12 required/ Grades K-2 Highly Recommended.
 4. Working in small groups. Grades 3-12 required/ Grades K-2 Highly Recommended
 5. Any other time when social distancing cannot be observed.
- **Reminder: Student morning drop-off will begin at 7:45 AM at all Southwest School Corporation schools.** No student will be allowed within the building until 7:45 AM. Students will report directly to their assigned classrooms. Elementary students will report to their homeroom teacher. Middle and high school students will report to their 1st-period class. This will allow for social distancing. Parents/Guardians will not be allowed to walk students to the classroom.

ADDITIONAL BACK TO SCHOOL IN-PERSON GUIDELINES

- ✓ Students who ride a SWSC bus will be issued an **assigned** seat or zone **and all students (K-12) are required to wear a face coverings/masks.**
- ✓ Classrooms will be reorganized to maximize available space and students will be given assigned seats. Students will not have to wear face coverings when social distanced at their desk. **Students in Grades 3-12 will be allowed to remove face coverings/masks if their desks are arranged in a matter that they are a minimum of 3 feet apart and all students are facing the same direction. Teachers will direct students to remove face coverings within the classrooms. In classrooms in grades 3-12 that can't maintain this guideline of a minimum of 3 feet, students will be required to face coverings during the class. Face coverings are highly recommended in Grades K-2.**
- ✓ Schedules will be adjusted in some cases to keep a greater separation and cohort students.
- ✓ Lunch will be served in the cafeteria and students will be given an assigned seat or zone. **Students will be required to wear face coverings while in the lunch line.**
- ✓ Playgrounds will be utilized with routine cleaning. **Face coverings/masks will not be required during recess as long as social distancing is observed.**
- ✓ Visitors in schools will be limited to the office areas only. **All visitors will be required to wear face coverings/face shields.** At this time, parents, guardians, and family members will not be allowed to walk students to their classrooms or have lunch with their students.

