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## Planning the Return to School

The 2020-2021 school year has come and the district has planned for a safe, healthy return for all students, faculty and staff. The Board of Trustees, Superintendent, administrators and teachers are uniquely aware of the responsibility of opening a safe place for students to learn. Through it all, students, their families, academic staff and the community are anticipating a learning place that meets the criteria for all of the ongoing issues facing the district. August 24<sup>th</sup> will be the first day for students to return. However, due to the new and renovated facility not being ready for occupancy, the students will adhere to three weeks of virtual school. The new facility will be ready for occupancy on September 14. The Office of School Facilities of the State Department of Education should have issued a stamp of approval by that date, according to contractors Thompson and Turner.

When students head back to actual school on September 14<sup>th</sup>, parents will have made the decision to have their child attend virtually or on a hybrid A/B schedule. Forms are still available at the elementary and middle schools for parents to complete and inform the district of their choice. Denmark-Olar High School students/parents must pick up their information at Denmark-Olar Middle School.

As we prepare to welcome our students and teachers back, we must implement very important measures that will ensure that everyone is safe. Face masks will be required and social distancing will be in place. Sanitizing of classrooms, cafeterias, buses, restrooms and hallways will occur daily. Everyone will be required to wash their hands often, use hand sanitizer, and practice safe distancing. Schedules have been adjusted to accommodate social distancing before, during and after lunch.

Students participating in virtual learning and the hybrid A/B model will have a daily instructional schedule to receive frequent teacher feedback and high standards of instruction. Instruction will be based on SC Standards and Learning Management System (LMS) and will be managed through Google Classroom. All groups of students will receive the same amount of instruction from the teacher daily. Students will be required to complete tests, quizzes, and other evaluations so deemed by the instructor. All related arts courses will be provided to include, art, music, physical education and band. JROTC will continue to be offered in the high school.

Students' temperatures will be checked by the nurse daily as they enter the building. Should a child have an elevated temperature, he/she will be taken to the nurse's station and parents will be immediately informed. Students will be expected to leave the building as a precautionary measure for others in the school.

If a student becomes ill or if information is shared that a child has been infected, all persons associated with the child will be informed by the principal or school nurse. Cooperation is appreciated in our efforts to maintain a safe place for students, faculty and staff. Should a person test positive for the virus, he/she must quarantine for 10-14 days and, upon return to school or the work place, they must present documentation of a clear diagnosis. All persons who come into contact with a positive (COVID) person must also have a test completed in order to return to school. The results must read negative.

Masks have been provided for all faculty, staff and students through the State Department of Education. Students riding the bus may wear a mask and some may be provided by the bus driver. Students are expected to wear a mask each day as they board the bus. Seating will be distanced and same family members are encouraged to sit together. All bus drivers are required to wear masks at all times. The district adheres to guidelines provided through DHEC and the State Department of Transportation.

All students will be issued a Chromebook for instructional purposes. Please check with your child's school for the schedule to pick up the device. The safety of everyone remains top priority for the district. If adjustments have to be made, everyone will be informed.