

August 5, 2020

Dear Florence School District Three Parents:

The leadership of the Florence County School District Three is working daily to develop a re-entry plan, establish a baseline level of safety, and plan a responsive strategy that prioritizes the health and safety of our community. We are preparing for both in-person and virtual learning to start on Tuesday, September 8, 2020.

However, it is important to understand these plans are subject to change in response to public health conditions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. With these realities in mind, we are building a comprehensive approach that will ensure instructional continuity for all students during the 2020-2021 school year.

We understand families have many questions about sending their students to school. Therefore, we have included responses to key questions regarding the return to school in this letter. You can find our complete school reopening plan on our website at www.fsd3.org.

Parent Options:

Option 1: In-School Instruction	Option 2: At Home Virtual Instruction Virtual Program different from eLearning in the Spring.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will attend their assigned school daily, teacher-led instruction. • Daily attendance taken. • Enhanced health and safety protocols (increased cleaning, mask usage, frequent handwashing, hand sanitizer stations and social distancing). • Reduced class transitions and large group interaction to ensure social distancing. • Related arts, intervention, and special education teachers who support students within the family would rotate • Students receiving pull out services will be routed out of the classroom using enhanced safety protocols to include masks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will remain registered at their assigned school, but will remain at home and attend classes online daily, teacher-led instruction. • Daily attendance taken. • Support services available (ex. IEP meetings, ESL support, social emotional support, etc...) • Virtual parent meetings required. • Parent Progress Meetings onsite required. • Students will be required to test onsite depending on grade level. • Limited availability of extracurricular programs and activities that require on-campus participation (athletics not included-students will still be able to participate). • Families commit to FSD3 Virtual Program for at least 1 semester (90 days).

I. Face to Face Option

Safety measures inside school facilities

- Temperature screening for staff AND students daily
- Requirement for staff AND students to wear a mask/face-covering
- Hand sanitizer will be provided and frequently used in each classroom and throughout the buildings
- Regularly scheduled handwashing for all students and staff
- Staff members will be trained on CDC guidance to reduce likelihood of COVID-19 transmission
- Students in elementary school will stay in the same classroom and teachers will rotate to classes as much as possible
- Strict social distancing in hallways and common areas
- Meals served in the classrooms or outside when weather permits – no large groups in a cafeteria setting
- Buses will run at reduced capacity – 50% of students per bus
- Enhanced nightly cleaning in all schools
- Frequent checks and changes in air filters.

*** Parents should not send their child to school if they have the following symptoms:

- *Fever*
- *Dry cough*
- *Tiredness*
- *Aches and pains*
- *Sore throat*
- *Diarrhea*
- *Conjunctivitis*
- *Headache*
- *Loss of taste or smell*
- *a rash on skin, or discoloration of fingers or toes*

II. Virtual Option

(Students who select this option must complete a semester session before choosing to change to the traditional in-person schedule.)

Device checkout

Parents who do not have an electronic device will be allowed to check out a device for their child if they returned the device from the spring and have paid any outstanding technology fees. The parent must sign the contract agreement and attend the necessary training provided on the assigned date prior to school beginning.

Internet access

If you do not have reliable internet available in the home, you can complete the necessary paperwork to see if you qualify for free internet access for six months. To apply, please visit the FSD3 website.

Attendance requirements

Students must sign in daily at the assigned times and attend the live lessons via Google Meet to receive credit for attendance. Attendance policies are the same for both virtual and face to face options.

Attendance will be taken for each period, and students will be required to be fully present and engaged at all times. Should students not meet the attendance requirements, parent meetings will be scheduled and truancy guidelines will be followed.

Assessments

Parents will transport virtual students to the school for proctored assessments as assigned by the teacher and district. There will be some face to face testing required but this testing will be done in small groups following all DHEC and CDC recommendations and requirements.

Parent Contact

Parents must provide up to date contact information so that teachers can communicate with them often. It is vital that parents and teachers discuss the progress the student is making during this virtual learning experience. Parents must also agree to face to face assessments and small group meetings as needed to discuss the student’s progress.

Work submission

Distance learning/virtual students will be held to the same expectations for work submission and grading guidelines as traditional in-person students. If at any point a distance learning/virtual student is deemed as being unsuccessful in this platform, a conference will be held with the school principal to determine next steps.

III. LEAP Days- Learn, Evaluate, Analyze, Prepare

<p>Mon., Aug. 31 Cohort A 4K, 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th</p>	<p>Tues., Sept 1 Cohort A 4K, 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th</p>	<p>Wed. Sept 2 PD/ Cleaning Day 3K Montessori by appointment only.</p>	<p>Thurs., Sept 3 Cohort B 5K, 2nd, 4th, 6th, 8th</p>	<p>Fri., Sept 4 Cohort B 5K, 2nd, 4th, 6th, 8th</p>
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LEAP days are five additional days of learning to help assess and prepare students for the upcoming school year. **All** students in grades 4K- 8th are invited to attend assigned days from **August 31 through September 4 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm**. Transportation will be provided. Breakfast and Lunch will be served.

During the assigned LEAP days, students will be given required face to face assessments and screeners so that teachers can assess the educational, academic and social/ emotional needs of our students.

Cohort A- grades: 4K, 1st, 3rd, 5th, and 7th. Students will attend Monday and Tuesday (8/31 and 9/1)

Cohort B- grades 5K, 2nd, 4th, 6th and 8th. Students will attend Thursday and Friday (9/3 and 9/4)

3K Montessori students will attend by appointment on Wednesday, September 2.

Schools will be cleaned and sanitized on Wednesday between the two cohort groups.

IV. Staggered Entry

In an effort to safely ease students into the learning environment, students will report two grade levels at a time for two day increments as follows:

Grades 4K and 6th begin school on **September 8**

Grades 5K and 5th begin school on **September 10**

Grades 1st and 4th begin school on **September 14**

Grades 2nd and 3rd begin school on **September 16**

Mon	Sept 7	Labor Day No School		Sept 14	4K/ 5K/ 5 th / 6 th continues Add 1 st /4 th 7 th /9 th / 12 th (Group A)
Tues	Sept 8	4K/ 6 th / 8 th / 10 th / 11 th (Group B)		Sept 15	4K/5K/ 1 st / 4 th / 5 th /6 th 8 th / 10 th / 11 th (Group B)
Wed	Sept 9	4K/ 6 th / 7 th /9 th / 12 th (Group A- JPT- 6 th)		Sept 16	4K/5K/ 1 st / 4 th / 5 th /6 th continues Add 2 nd and 3 rd 7 th /9 th / 12 th (Group A)
Thurs	Sept 10	4K/ 6 th continues Add 5K/ 5 th 8 th / 10 th / 11 th (Group B)		Sept 17	All elementary grades Add 3K Montessori 8 th / 10 th / 11 th (Group B)
Fri	Sept 11	4K/ 6 th /5K/ 5 th 7-12- virtual		Sept 18	All elementary grades 7-12 virtual

While students enrolled in face to face learning are waiting on their start date, they will complete a variety of assignments including interest inventories, pre assessments, writing assignments and response to readings. These activities should be done **by the student** to give us a good idea of where they are academically and what they need instructionally when they begin school.

Thank you for your continued support as we reimagine teaching and learning in the ever-changing landscape of COVID19.

Sincerely yours,

Laura Hickson

Laura Hickson, Ed.S
Superintendent