



South Park School District  
Central Administration Offices  
2005 Eagle Ridge Drive  
South Park, PA 15129  
412-655-3111 • Fax: 412-655-2952  
www.sparksd.org

## South Park School District

**Please carefully and thoroughly review all details of this communication as it contains important information and details regarding the district's instructional plan. Links to online forms are also included in this document for students wishing to switch into or out of the South Park Cyber Academy and for elementary center families wishing to keep their children enrolled in in-person learning.**

### **HYBRID INSTRUCTION SCHEDULED TO RESUME ON JANUARY 11**

All South Park schools are scheduled to resume a hybrid operational model beginning on Monday, January 11, 2021. For the week of January 11, Hybrid Group A students will attend in-person classes on January 11 and 13. Hybrid Group B students will attend in-person classes on January 12 and 14. The hybrid calendar for the remainder of the second quarter can be found by [clicking here](#).

To ensure the hybrid model is successful and sustainable, all staff and students must use and follow the district's [at-home symptom screening tool](#) before leaving for school each day. If your child is told to quarantine or if your child or an immediate family member tests or has tested positive for COVID-19, please notify your child's school nurse as soon as possible and wait for further guidance before returning to school. Continue to practice physical distancing, wear face coverings when leaving home, wash hands frequently, clean and disinfect frequently-touched objects and surfaces and avoid large gatherings.

***We continue to encourage families to have a contingency plan in place in the event the district must transition a school or schools back to a remote instructional model.*** These changes will be swift and will take into account a number of factors including, but not limited to, the number of COVID-19 cases in the district, community and county; the impacts – educational, health, and social/emotional – on our students; the ability of the district to staff classrooms and positions; and the guidelines and recommendations from state and county health officials. Additionally, the district is required to adhere to the [mandates from the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Pennsylvania Department of Health regarding building closures following the identification of a certain number of cases in a building](#). The district must close a building or buildings for the time specified by the Pennsylvania Departments of Education and Health following the identification of 4 or more cases in a school building over a 14-day rolling period.

Face coverings are required at all times in school and on the bus except during breakfast, lunch and scheduled mask breaks. Face coverings must be secured over the nose and mouth. An update to the [state's face covering order](#) says face shields must extend below the chin and to the ears and leave no gap between the forehead and the shield's headpiece. The widely-used face shields on glasses are no longer permitted under this order as they leave a gap between the forehead and the shield's headpiece. The face shields on glasses may continue to be worn if used in combination with a mask.



## South Park School District

### THIRD QUARTER IN-PERSON INSTRUCTIONAL PLAN AT SOUTH PARK ELEMENTARY CENTER

We cannot predict what the changing dynamics of the COVID-19 pandemic in our area will be when the third grading period begins on Monday, February 1. However, as we shared with families in our communication on January 4, the district is preparing to transition from the hybrid instructional model to additional in-person instruction beginning with our youngest learners. We are proceeding cautiously with this plan, recognizing that the factors discussed earlier in this communication may force us to delay this transition. However, in an effort to help families prepare, we are sharing these tentative details now. Again, this plan is subject to change at any point. It is also important to remind families that the South Park Cyber Academy will remain an option for all district families this school year. Families wishing to switch their children out of the South Park Cyber Academy for the start of the second semester or into the South Park Cyber Academy for the remainder of the school year must complete [this form](#) by January 13 at 3 p.m. Additional details about the cyber academy are provided further below.

Beginning on Monday, February 1, 2021, up to two additional in-person instructional days will be added for **all South Park Elementary Center students currently enrolled in the hybrid instructional model**. This means, during a five-day school week, elementary center students currently enrolled in the hybrid model will attend in-person classes Monday through Thursday. At this time, Fridays during five-day school weeks will remain an at-home learning day for all students as our teachers focus on remediation and cyber instruction. When the school week is shortened due to a scheduled off-day, the in-person instructional calendar will be updated to maximize classroom learning. The in-person learning calendar for February can be found by [clicking here](#).

While the district remains committed to adhering to public health mandates and implementing public health guidance, families of elementary center students enrolled in the in-person learning track should know the following:

- Physical distancing in elementary center classrooms will be reduced to approximately three feet. This reduced physical distancing between students and between students and staff may result in the identification of additional close contacts should a case of COVID-19 be confirmed in a classroom setting and the need for your child to quarantine based on requirements from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Pennsylvania Department of Health and/or the Allegheny County Health Department. Close contacts are generally individuals within six feet of an infected person for 15 minutes or more. Face coverings remain a requirement in all Pennsylvania schools.
- Capacity limits on elementary center school bus routes will be increased, and students will once again share seats. Up to two elementary center students may share a seat on a school bus. Up to three elementary-aged siblings may share a seat on a school bus. This reduced physical distancing between students on school buses may result in the identification of additional close contacts should a case of COVID-19 be confirmed and the need for your child to quarantine based on requirements from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Pennsylvania Department of Health and/or the Allegheny County Health Department. Close contacts are generally individuals within six feet of an infected person for 15 minutes or more. Face coverings remain a requirement on school buses.
- Elementary center bus routes will be lengthened and elementary center students' stop times will change. Elementary center students utilizing district transportation will receive updated assignments in late-January. Additional transportation information is included in the transportation section of this communication.
- Physical distancing of six feet in school cafeterias remains a requirement in order for students to remove their face coverings.



## South Park School District

### THIRD QUARTER IN-PERSON INSTRUCTIONAL PLAN AT SOUTH PARK ELEMENTARY CENTER (CONTINUED)

- At any time, the district may transition back to a hybrid instructional model or a remote instructional model due to the identification of cases or the increase in the number of identified close contacts. The number of short-term building closures may increase due to the number of cases or the identification of additional close contacts.

**\*\*Families who want their children to continue in the in-person instructional model at South Park Elementary Center for up to four days per week beginning on February 1, 2021 are asked to complete [this online verification form](#) before 3 p.m. on Wednesday, January 13, 2021.\*\***

In the event conditions do not allow for additional in-person instructional days at the elementary center, we will continue with the existing hybrid schedule and current bus routes. Families will be notified of an updated timeline of increased in-person instruction once conditions would permit.

### THIRD QUARTER IN-PERSON INSTRUCTIONAL PLAN AT SOUTH PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL & SOUTH PARK HIGH SCHOOL

South Park Middle School and South Park High School will remain in a hybrid instructional model to start the third quarter on February 1 while the district evaluates the transition at South Park Elementary Center and works on the plan to increase in-person instruction for our middle school and high school students. The hybrid calendar for February 2021 can be found by [clicking here](#).

South Park Middle School and South Park High School are working on plans to implement increased instructional time under the hybrid model in the second semester by providing synchronous, live-streaming opportunities.

At South Park Middle School, continuous instruction from Monday through Thursday during five-day school weeks will be facilitated via live-streaming by academic classroom teachers whenever possible. It is the expectation for middle school students who are at home to log on and participate in his/her scheduled class period-by-period when live-streaming takes place. Fridays during five-day school weeks will remain available for asynchronous learning, office hours and individual remediation needs. Teachers will review these second semester procedures with their students.

At South Park High School, teachers will continue to deploy synchronous, live-stream lessons on at-home days when applicable to the course's curriculum. Teachers will continue to communicate their at-home learning procedures with their students.

### TRANSITIONING INTO OR OUT OF SOUTH PARK CYBER ACADEMY

When families enrolled their children in the South Park Cyber Academy, it was a one-semester commitment. As we prepare to begin the second semester of the school year, families whose children are enrolled in the South Park Cyber Academy now have the opportunity to enroll them in the in-person learning track. This change would be effective on Monday, February 1. Families wishing to enroll their children in the in-person learning track must complete [this online form](#) by Wednesday, January 13 at 3 p.m. Cyber Academy families who wish to keep their children enrolled in the South Park Cyber Academy do not need to take any further action. Failure to enroll your child in the in-person learning track by 3 p.m. on Wednesday, January 13 means your child will remain in the South Park Cyber Academy for the remainder of the school year. Students enrolled in the South Park Cyber Academy on February 1 will remain in the South Park Cyber Academy through June 2021.



## South Park School District

### TRANSITIONING INTO OR OUT OF SOUTH PARK CYBER ACADEMY (CONTINUED)

Families wishing to enroll their children in the South Park Cyber Academy should also [complete this form](#). Enrollment in the South Park Cyber Academy is contingent upon class sizes.

### THIRD QUARTER TRANSPORTATION

Families needing to update their child's transportation request for the third quarter must complete [this change request form](#) and email it to [transportation@sparksd.org](mailto:transportation@sparksd.org) by 3 p.m. on Wednesday, January 13. No change requests will be accepted after this date. If your child is currently a car rider and will remain a car rider for the third quarter, no further action is necessary. If your child is currently a bus rider and will remain a bus rider for the third quarter with no change to his/her bus stop, no further action is necessary.

Elementary center bus routes will change for the third quarter. Some students' buses may change. Most students' stop times will change. Families will receive updated transportation assignments by late-January once the transportation department re-routes buses based on change requests received by January 13.

### IMPORTANT LINKS

[Second Semester Instructional Model Change Form due by 3 p.m. on Wednesday, January 13](#)

[Elementary Center In-Person Instruction Verification Form due by 3 p.m. on Wednesday, January 13](#)

[Transportation Change Form due by 3 p.m. on Wednesday, January 13](#)

[February SPEC In-Person Instruction Calendar](#)

[February Hybrid Calendar](#)

### FURTHER UPDATES

These plans are subject to change and are based on factors that could change quickly over the coming weeks. Families and staff will continue to receive updates from the district when changes to our operational plan are made.

Questions or concerns should be directed to your child's teacher or principal.