



2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR HEALTH & SAFETY PLAN GUIDE

The South Park School District looks forward to the opening of the 2021-2022 school year on Wednesday, August 25. While several health and safety protocols will be in place, we anticipate a much more traditional school year for our students and staff.

As mandated by the federal government and the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act, the South Park School District has prepared a 2021-2022 Health and Safety Plan. A summary of the plan is provided in this 2021-2022 School Year Health & Safety Plan Guide. The plan will be formally adopted by the South Park School District Board of Directors on Thursday, August 12, 2021, as mandated by federal law. However, the district is providing this summary of the health and safety plan to families and staff so they can know what to expect next school year, as of July 22, 2021. It is important to remember, should additional mandates, guidelines, and recommendations be issued, the policies and procedures outlined in this plan may change. In this scenario, the Superintendent will enact the changes immediately to ensure compliance, the changes will be presented to the Board of Directors for approval/ratification, the revised Plan will be re-submitted to the appropriate governing authorities, and stakeholders will be notified of the change.

EDUCATIONAL MODEL OPTIONS

Families of K-12 students will have two educational model options for the 2021-2022 school year.



OPTION 1: FIVE DAYS OF IN-PERSON LEARNING

With certain health and safety protocols in place, students in grades K-12 return to five days of in-person learning beginning on Wednesday, August 25. All K-12 students will automatically be placed in the In-Person Learning option. Families selecting this option for their children do not need to take any further action.

The district will continue to utilize Canvas, an online learning management system. Canvas will be used in the event the district is required to temporarily and briefly transition a cohort, grade-level, building, or district to remote learning due to a communicable disease outbreak, inclement weather, or emergency situation. Additionally, Canvas may be used for students in isolation or quarantine to access coursework while out of the classroom.

OPTION 2: ASYNCHRONOUS CYBER ACADEMY

Students learn asynchronously using an online learning platform (Pearson for grades K-5 and Edgenuity for grades 6-12). Courses are administered and graded by South Park or contracted teachers. All students complete coursework at their own pace while being accountable for progress throughout the quarter, semester, and school year.

This model will be different from the K-8 Cyber Academy model offered during the 2020-2021 school year. The previous K-8 model is not sustainable in 2021-2022, as a majority of students will be learning in-person in our school buildings. Teachers who administer courses will be available during established and communicated weekly office hours outside the school day.

Cyber Academy students graduate with a South Park diploma and may participate in extracurricular activities offered by the district.

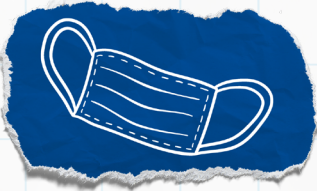
Families selecting this option must complete [this online enrollment form](#) by 2 p.m. on Thursday, July 29. Students enrolled in this option cannot enroll in the in-person learning option until the start of the second semester (January 2022).

We encourage families selecting this option to speak with their building principal before completing the enrollment process.



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MASKS/FACE COVERINGS



Per the federal order issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on January 29, 2021, all individuals, regardless of vaccination status, will be required to wear a mask over their nose and mouth while on school buses or vans.

*The South Park School District **strongly recommends, but does not require**, the use of face coverings by unvaccinated individuals while in district buildings, unless the district is directed to require the use of face coverings by local, state, or federal governing/health authorities by mandate or due to significant levels of school/community transmission. This recommendation is in line with the CDC's Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools.*

TRANSPORTATION



Masks are required by all individuals on district transportation, per the CDC order.

While the district will work to reduce capacity on school buses when possible, there will be routes that operate at pre-pandemic capacity levels with an increased number of students learning in-person and a decreased number of students being driven to school.

Seats will be assigned, as is usual, and seating charts will be provided to school offices. Siblings will be required to sit together.

Transportation assignments will be emailed to families in mid-August with a short window of time for families to request a change in time for the first day of school. Returning families are asked to complete [this online transportation request form](#) by July 29, 2021.

ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL PROCEDURES



All students and staff will be asked to use the symptom screening checklist (to be shared via email in August) before leaving for school each day.

Car rider arrival/dismissal windows may be shortened and may return to pre-pandemic times. This information will be communicated to families by their school in August. All arrival/dismissal procedures will be outlined by building in a future communication.

Temperature screenings will no longer be performed at arrival, unless it needs to be added as a mitigation effort in response to higher levels of community transmission.

CAFETERIA/FOOD SERVICES



Full cafeteria operations will be restored. Serving line procedures are to be determined by building principal.

Boxed or pre-packaged meals are no longer required.

Secondary dining locations closed in all buildings, unless required to utilize these spaces based on community transmission or local, state, or federal mandates.

Distancing of tables/chairs to the greatest extent possible.

Students eligible to receive one free breakfast and one free lunch per school day. Students will be charged for extra meals or a la carte items.



GENERAL SCHOOL OPERATIONS



Throughout the district in classrooms, learning spaces, cafeterias, and other areas, desks, tables, and chairs will be distanced to the greatest extent possible, while still allowing for a full reopening for all district students.

Locker use restored for students in grades 3-12.

Classroom windows will be opened when possible to increase fresh air.

Seating charts are required to be submitted to building principals.

Water bottle refill stations will remain active throughout the district. Students will be encouraged to bring a refillable, reusable bottle (no plastic single use bottles) with them to school. Additionally, usage of water fountains may be permitted at the building principal's discretion.

Most one-way hallways/stairwells return to two-directional hallways/stairwells.

Use of shared classroom materials will not be restricted, with no requirement to sanitize/disinfect after each use.

Locker room usage for physical education classes at the middle school and high school will be restored.

Elementary Center specials classes resume in their pre-pandemic locations (music room, art room, library, STEM room, gym).

Large group gatherings will be discouraged/limited, but will be at the discretion of the building principal. Virtual staff meetings will be conducted when feasible.

Nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations will be limited and at the discretion of the building principal.

Visitors to the school office (parents/guardians picking up/dropping off students or belongings) will continue to have limited access. Virtual meetings between staff and families will be conducted when feasible.

Field trips requests reviewed on a case-by-case basis by building principal in consultation with the Superintendent.

Outside/external groups will be permitted to use/rent district facilities contingent on low levels of community transmission of COVID-19 and staffing availability.

More building-specific details about operations will be communicated to families in August by the building principals.



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HEALTHY HABITS



All students and staff will be provided ample opportunities to practice good hand hygiene using soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

Hand sanitizer dispensers remain prominent and stocked in high-traffic and strategic locations throughout the district. Sinks are stocked with adequate supplies of soap and paper towels.

Signs provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Pennsylvania Department of Health and created by the South Park School District will be posted throughout all district buildings and facilities and in common areas to promote proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette. Proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette will be reviewed and reinforced by teachers.

School staff members are expected to model appropriate handwashing and respiratory etiquette for South Park students.

CLEAN & HEALTHY SCHOOLS



District facilities staff will continue to clean and disinfect all spaces including classrooms, locker rooms, band rooms, training rooms, weight rooms, gyms, large group instruction rooms (LGI room), auditoriums, outdoor spaces, etc., daily, consistent with CDC guidelines and standards.

Facilities staff will focus on high-touch surfaces throughout the day, adhering to any developed cleaning/disinfecting schedules for each district building.

CDC guidelines for responding, cleaning, and disinfecting areas in the event of a confirmed case of COVID-19 will be followed.

Approved cleaning supplies will be stocked and available for teachers/staff for classroom cleaning/disinfecting when needed/requested.

All students, families and staff will be provided with an updated symptom screening checklist prior to the start of the school year and will be required to use the checklist daily before leaving for school. Individuals who are sick will be reminded to stay home.

Students and staff diagnosed with COVID-19 will adhere to isolation requirements set forth by the ACHD, DOH, and CDC. Individuals who are absent for illness (COVID-19 or any other illness) will be required to follow health department protocol in order to return to school.

The district will adhere to contact tracing/isolation/quarantine directives from the Allegheny County Health Department, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Administration and school nurses will follow ACHD, DOH, and CDC guidelines and conduct contact tracing when needed, notifying identified close contacts of the exposure and the need to quarantine, generally within 24 hours of the district receiving notice of a positive COVID-19 case, per CDC recommendations. Fully vaccinated people who were in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 but do NOT have COVID-19 symptoms do not need to quarantine or be tested.

Further updates about the district's operations during the 2021-2022 school year will be provided throughout the month of August. This summary document has been shared so families understand the details of our health and safety planning so they can make an informed decision during the open enrollment period for the South Park Cyber Academy. We cannot wait to welcome everyone back to school on Wednesday, August 25!