



Spring Branch Independent School District

Spring Oaks Middle School

2150 Shadowdale, Houston, Texas 77043
Phone (713) 251-4800 • Fax (713) 251-9508

Mary Lou Davalos Principal

September 2, 2020

Dear SOMS Parents,

Hello and welcome to a new school year! It sure has been eventful with our hallways empty and quiet. As we get ready to receive students, I wanted to send some information your way. Please read through carefully and communicate these points with your child as there will be many details that pertain to everyone's safety and wellness and our first days of school.

SCHEDULE FOR WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 8- 11, 2020

On Tuesday and Thursday, only students whose last names begin with **A-L** will attend school in-person at SOMS if a parent or guardian had previously selected in-person learning. On Wednesday and Friday, A-L students will be joining classes from home. Virtual learners will continue joining classes from home each day.

On Wednesday and Friday, only students whose last names begin with **M-Z** will attend school in-person at SOMS if a parent or guardian had previously selected in-person learning. On Tuesday and Thursday, M-Z students will be joining students from home. Virtual learners will continue joining classes from home each day.

All families who have selected in-person learning have received a recorded phone call with notification of assigned days to come to school. This split A-L and M-Z schedule is for the week of September 8-11, 2020 only.

*Students who are attending in-person learning must arrive to campus wearing a mask and are required to bring their laptop, bag, and charger each day. Please help your child to remember to charge their laptop every night.

SCHEDULE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2020

All students whose families selected in-person learning will attend together each school day, Monday through Friday. Virtual learners will continue joining classes from home each day.

*Students who are attending in-person learning must arrive to campus wearing a mask and are required to bring their laptop, bag, and charger each day. Please help your child to remember to charge their laptop every night.

IN-PERSON LEARNING ARRIVING TO SCHOOL

Students who are being dropped off in our parent drive or who walk to school may not arrive before 8:10am. Supervision of students begins at 8:10am. All students entering school will sanitize their hands on the way in. There will be 3 entrances-6th grade will enter through the main entrance doors, 7th grade will enter through the boy's gym foyer doors, and 8th grade will enter through the black gates by the auditorium. We will be on hand to help guide students to their assigned entrance.

Inspiring minds. Shaping lives.

Jennifer Blaine, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

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SECOND NINE WEEKS LEARNING MODEL SELECTION September 20-27, 2020

For families who selected Distance Learning for the first nine weeks and would like to change the learning model for the second nine weeks may do so beginning on Sunday, Sept. 20. The window will close on Sunday, Sept. 27 at midnight. Please watch for district communication. The second nine weeks begins on Monday, October 19, 2020.

FACE MASKS/COVERINGS

Students and Employees:

Face masks or coverings are **required** for all staff and students and **must** be worn:

- Properly over the nose and mouth and when physical distancing is not possible or practical.
- In the classroom, during passing periods and in common spaces-e.g. restrooms, hallways, library, cafeteria, gym, meeting rooms, offices, after school, etc.
- On the bus at all times.
- Gaiters are an allowable face covering and must be worn appropriately over the nose and mouth.
- Masks and face coverings shall be free of any images, words, political slogans, with the exception of an SBISD school or district logo or college logo.
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*Note: Masks with one-way exhalation valves or vents are not allowed.

Failure to wear a mask is considered a health hazard and may result in disciplinary consequences, see appendix.

(Updated 08/30/2020)

FACE SHIELDS

- According to the Texas Education Agency, full- face shields may be used in place of a mask to protect eyes, nose, and mouth whenever a mask is not feasible or whenever the education context may benefit from the ability to see an individual's full face. School systems may require the use of masks or face shields for adults or students for whom it is developmentally appropriate.
- Teachers may distribute face shields to students, if needed, to facilitate clear communication for in-person instruction. Students would only be allowed to wear them while seated at their desk, during instruction. If the student needs to move about the room, the mask or face covering must be put on again before getting up from their desk.
- A note from a health care provider is required if a student or employee has a health condition that inhibits them from wearing a face covering/mask or due to a religious practice that would require otherwise.
- A parent/guardian shall complete the mask accommodation form for students and provide a physician's note to the nurse. If the accommodation is approved the student shall be required to wear a face shield when physically possible.
- Employees shall request an accommodation and submit an accommodation form through Human Resources. If the accommodation is approved, the employee shall be required to wear a face shield when physically possible.

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COMPLETION OF REQUIRED HEALTH & SAFETY FORMS

For all students who are learning in-person, parents will be required to fill out the following additional forms through Family Access in Skyward. (If you need help, please call our main office and someone will assist you.) These forms are due before students return to school, please.

- SBISD Mask Acknowledgement Form
- SBISD Health & Safety Protocol Form
- Parent Acknowledgement Form

LUNCHES & IN-PERSON LEARNING

- To ensure the safety of students and staff, no outside food deliveries will be accepted (i.e. food, gifts, DoorDash, etc.).
- Students may bring their own lunch.
- Grab and Go meals will be served in our cafeteria and taken to classrooms and/or common areas for consumption, while ensuring the safety of children.

While I realize this is plenty of information, I also know that together we can create the safest learning environment possible. Please stay tuned by checking our school bulletin, Panther Tracks, on our school's website under School News regularly and expect communication from our school district every Friday.

We are here to help and support and are a phone call or an email away! We are looking forward to another great school year!

Sincerely,

Ms. Davalos

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