

## Suwannee County School District "Sensible in Suwannee"

June 4, 2020

A Common Sense Approach to Returning to School on  
August 10, 2020



**My Choice for a High Quality Education**

# Returning to School

## What You Need to Know

The Suwannee County School District (SCSD) believes in the strength and resilience of our nation, state, and county. We believe that students and parents, along with the community, must resume the new school year with as much normalcy as possible, as we all learn to live in the Coronavirus (COVID) world. Life for students, families, community, and the school district must move forward, as the education of our citizens of tomorrow is of paramount importance in our ability for us to thrive as a community. This informational bulletin is being provided so that all stakeholders know and understand how we as a school district, plan to conquer and make the 2020-2021 school year a meaningful and positive experience for our students.

## Preparing for Back to School

All school district facilities and transportation vehicles have been sanitized to ensure a clean and safe return for faculty, staff, and students.

Have you as a parent, your child(ren), or other family members in which your students have had contact been exposed to or tested positive for COVID? Please contact your school health clinic to speak with the licensed health professional to discuss your particular circumstances prior to the first day of school on August 10.

With COVID information and guidance changing constantly, many opinions exist on the topic of prevention related to COVID. Screening questions and temperature checks for school-aged children have proven, at this point, to not be good indicators of whether or not a student is COVID positive or has been exposed to COVID, as screening questions are dependent on the timing of the questions related to the incubation period. Many children do not have symptoms beyond that of what might resemble a common cold.

As a reminder, it is recommended that parents communicate with their child's doctor to make sure that he/she is up to date with recommended vaccinations and vaccinations required for school and overall good health prevention.

### On the Reverse Side

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Additional Information:

- This special *Returning to School* bulletin has been produced utilizing information available at the time of publication.
- Statistics quoted are taken from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).
- Medical advice is not inferred or implied through this publication. Please consult with your physician.
- Remember to contact your child's school with your concerns or questions. Keep social media hype and rumor from ruining your positive mental health. Get the facts! Let us know of your concerns.
- For information related to all after-school programs, functions, field trips, and extracurricular activities, please follow us on your school's Facebook, website, or call your school's main office for schedules and changes to scheduled events.

### resilience:

"an ability to recover from or adjust easily to misfortune or change."

—Merriam-Webster Dictionary

## Once the School Year Begins: Prevention of Illness

- ◆ Regular handwashing upon entering school, and during periods of student transition from one location to the next, will be taught and stressed.
- ◆ Hand sanitizing stations will be available in high traffic areas such as gymnasiums, cafeterias, auditoriums, media centers, and outside playgrounds.
- ◆ Signage to include reminders for good prevention of illness and overall wellness will be posted and standardized across all departments and schools.
- ◆ Students are to have and not share personal items such as hygiene items, school supplies, or food/drink. Parents should consider acquiring back to school supplies early, including personal sanitation items for their child, as supplies before school starts may be in short supply.
- ◆ School buildings will continue to be cleaned daily. High traffic areas will be cleaned throughout the day as student occupancy dictates.
- ◆ School buses and seats will be cleaned prior to each morning pick-up and before afternoon routes for drop-off.
- ◆ Water fountains, restrooms, sinks, faucets, door handles, desktops, cafeteria lines, railings, and tables will be cleaned at increased frequency.
- ◆ Student seating in all venues will be spaced as space allows.

***"We need to focus on facts and not fear. And I think that there's been a lot that's been done to try to promote fear, to promote worst case scenarios, to drive hysteria." ~Governor Ron DeSantis, April 29, 2020***

## Once the School Year Begins: Prevention and Response to Illness

Should a child, faculty, or staff member exhibit signs or symptoms of COVID, the individual should report these concerns to the school nurse immediately for initial evaluation.

If an individual is found to test positive for COVID, the local health department, in conjunction with the Florida Department of Health, will assist the school district in implementing the proper steps to prevent further exposure or transmission of COVID.

An affected COVID positive individual will not be able to return to work or school until cleared by a physician with a doctor's note reflecting the date of allowed return. For the health, safety, and welfare of all individuals, this requirement cannot be waived. Student absences will be excused for the duration of time reflected only on the doctor's note.

Students with any illness that exhibits a fever, must remain at home and will not be allowed to return to school until fever free, without medication, for 24 hours/1

day. The student's temperature will be checked by the school nurse prior to re-entry to class.

### Other Items of Interest

- ◆ Faculty, staff, and students may wear a mask that is self-provided. Masks are not required. Student masks are to be any solid color and may not be a bandana or bandana like mask. The school district is not responsible for ensuring that the student wears the self-provided mask.
- ◆ Good overall hygiene and illness prevention will continue to be stressed at school. Please stress this importance at home as well.
- ◆ Daily temperature checks of all individuals will not be done as this is not a recommended practice due to the many reasons a fever may exist. It is also not a good predictor of COVID presence in children.

## Did You Know?

Get your flu vaccine!

- ◆ Children are more likely to have serious, life-threatening complications from the seasonal flu than they are from COVID.
- ◆ One (1) individual in the State of Florida, age 25 or younger, has been lost to COVID.
- ◆ As of May 6, 2020, ten children ages 14 and younger, and 48 young people between ages 15-24, died nationwide due to COVID. Sadly, nearly 600 children died from the flu during the 2017-2018 flu season.

### School Contact Information

Area Code (386)

Branford Elementary School	935-5700
Branford High School	935-5600
Suwannee Springcrest Elementary	647-4700
Suwannee Pineview Elementary	647-4400
Suwannee Riverside Elementary	647-4300
Suwannee Middle School	647-4500
Suwannee High School	647-4000
RIVEROAK Technical College	647-4200
Suwannee Opportunity School	647-4276
Suwannee Virtual School	647-4248
Donald Ralph Cooke School	842-5501
SCSD Office	647-4600