

Hello all Sands CISD parents and students! As we approach the start of a new school year, our number one desire is to create a school environment that BEST meets the needs of our students and staff. This includes doing everything in our power to keep our students and staff safe and healthy while promoting excellence in character, academics, and extracurricular activities. With that being said, we are moving forward with on campus instruction for the 2020-2021 school year. We are excited about this and I am sure you are as well. A Master Calendar was attached at the end of this document that includes a start date of August 17th and includes the schedule for the year with all school holidays listed. You can also find the Sands CISD Activity Calendar on our website at www.sands.esc17.net. This calendar is updated daily with events and activities that impact Sands CISD. I encourage you to regularly check this calendar. The rest of the information in this letter will be critical in helping us not only have a smooth start to the school year but also a safe start as well.

We included in this letter the **Sands CISD 2020-2021 SAFE SCHOOL Health Plan**. This will include all procedures we have in place to deal with the complex situation created by the COVID-19 virus. It will be very important to read through these procedures to help you be aware of how Sands CISD will handle this health issue. You may also always find this on our website at www.sands.esc17.net.

I want to begin by emphasizing **important dates** of meetings and activities that may impact you and your student.

- High School athletes will begin football and cross country workouts on **August 3rd**. Coaches will send out more information on all regulations and procedures for these practices.
- High school students will register for classes with the following schedule.
 - **12th grade on August 3rd at 1:00pm in high school office**
 - **11th grade on August 3rd at 3:00pm in high school office**
 - **10th grade on August 4th at 1:00pm in high school office**
 - **9th grade on August 4th at 3:00pm in the cafeteria. (Parents welcome)**
- JH Cheer Camp will begin on August 4th & HS Cheer camp will begin on August 11th
****Due to procedures in place to limit large gatherings there will not be a Mini Cheer Camp this year but we hope to continue this next school year.**

- We will have parent meetings for each grade level prior to the start of school that will be **very beneficial** in getting you information pertaining to the COVID-19 health issue and will allow you to ask questions that you may have. The students may come with you if possible and they will be able to bring their school supplies to leave at school and they will also be able to meet their teacher.. These "Safe Start" assemblies will be split up by grade level on the following dates, and we will **meet in the cafeteria**. We ask parents to **wear masks** to these events as required by the state of Texas governor guidelines.
 - **August 10th -- PreK @ 4:00pm & Kindergarten @ 5:00pm**
 - **August 11th -- 1st grade @ 4:00pm & 2nd grade @ 5:00pm**
 - **August 12th -- 3rd grade @ 4:00pm & 4th grade @ 5:00pm**
 - **August 13th -- 5th grade @ 4:00pm & 6th grade @ 5:00pm**
 - **August 14th -- 7th & 8th @ 4:00pm & High school @ 5:00pm**

The new school year will present some challenges to normal procedures for each day. On the back we have instructions on how we will need to operate each day of school. Please carefully look over these procedures on the back of this letter. To the maximum extent possible we will prohibit elementary from entering the secondary part of the building and vice versa.

MORNING ROUTINE: (all students will be health screened daily)

- All students will need to be on campus by **7:50am** each day.
- High School students will enter through the MAIN DOORS in front and either (a.) go to the cafeteria for breakfast or (b) go directly to their 1st period class.
- Junior High Students will go directly to their coaches if they are in athletics. JH PE students will enter through the MAIN DOORS and go directly to Coach Grumbles classroom. All JH will eat their school breakfast at the end of 1st period.
- Elementary students will be dropped off in the back of the building through the “ELEMENTARY” entrance. Parents will not be allowed to walk their students into the building. They will need to drive through the drop off line and their kids will go into the building on their own. Elementary students will **eat breakfast in their classroom.** The drop off line for elementary will be a **one way** street with the vehicle entrance coming from the front of the school and vehicles will exit through the back of the parking lot at the rear of the school between houses and tennis court.
- Bus students will be dropped off in back with JH & HS students entering the secondary building through the BACK Secondary entrance and elementary students will enter the building through the BACK Elementary entrance next to the second grade classroom.
- ALL VISITORS WILL NEED TO WAIT TILL AFTER 8:00am to come into the building unless a meeting time was established by the school. Please call the school first for any questions or to set up a meeting prior to coming into the building.

LUNCH ROUTINE:

- We will limit the cafeteria to 50 or fewer students at one time. We plan on the following lunch schedule on a daily basis. PreK/K/1st from 10:45 to 11:10; 2nd & 3rd from 11:20 to 11:45; 4th & 5th from 11:50-12:15; HS from 12:20-12:40; JH from 12:45-1:05.
- If you are bringing food for a student, you will need to leave this on a table at the entrance of the school. (inside the first set of double doors) You can call the office to notify us that this food has been dropped off. Visitors will not be allowed in the building to bring food.
- We will not prevent parents from eating lunch with students if they have been health screened, but due to size restrictions we ask that you call the school first for approval.

END OF DAY ROUTINE:

- Please be aware that we need to limit crowd size and large gatherings. This includes at the exit doors of the building. **We ask that parents stay in vehicles to the greatest extent possible when picking up students.** We will follow a specific plan for picking up students and it will be very important to arrive during your time period if possible (not too early or late). For those with more than one child in elementary, it will be important to try and arrive within the time frame of your **oldest elementary child.** Sands will make sure and gather elementary siblings together so they exit together.
- Elementary will be picked up in the back of the building in the pick up line in the following order:
3:15 to 3:25pm -- PreK students will be picked up
3:25 to 3:35pm -- Kindergarten through 1st grade students will be picked up
3:35 to 3:45pm -- 2nd grade through 3rd grade
3:45 to 3:55pm -- 4th & 5th grade
- JH will be picked up in the front of the building at 3:45pm
- HS students will be picked up / Leave on their own through front of building at 3:45pm
- It will be strongly encouraged that secondary students with younger elementary siblings walk around to the back of elementary to meet up with their younger siblings.

In order to make our situation at Sands CISD as safe and efficient as possible we want to emphasize the following procedures:

MASKS:

- All students in grades 4 and above must wear masks as mandated by the Governor of the State of Texas until further notice. These masks can be a traditional surgical mask, a face shield, a gaiter, or a cloth covering. Please do not have anything on a mask that is inappropriate or distracting for school. Consult the principal with questions about this. If a Dr. diagnosed health condition prevents wearing a mask, please contact the school to discuss this.
- Masks will not be worn while eating or while exercising but will need to be worn at all other times.
- It is **MANDATORY** that students have a case or container that they can place their mask in while not in use. This can be a zip up bag or a plastic container but they need to be able to have access to this in the classroom and able to be used while going to athletics/PE/cafeteria.

REMOTE LEARNING:

- Parents can consult with school administration if they feel their child has a health concern that would make on-campus learning an unsafe situation. **If a health issue is preventing your child from attending on-campus school, we need this communicated to us by Monday, August 3rd. You may call principal, Lenny Morrow, at 432-353-4888 or email at lmorrow@esc17.net with this information.**
- Any student that has to leave campus due to sickness can participate in their classroom and stay caught up through remote learning. Remote learning will be mandatory for those that are sick and will be off campus for multiple days. Please be aware that remote learning will be much more difficult than in the Spring and will require DAILY completion of all assignments to be considered "PRESENT" for attendance purposes.
- Remote learning will require access to the internet and a device that can be used to complete assignments and watch videos. It will also require completing all assignments DAILY in order to receive a passing grade and to receive credit for attendance.
- Please be advised that students are ineligible for extracurricular activities if they choose to participate in remote learning. However, if an illness creates a need to be on remote learning due then this would be an exception to this rule.

TRANSPORTATION:

- Students will be allowed to ride the bus to and from school as usual. However, due to CDC recommendations, it is best to bring your student to and from school on your own if it is possible.
- Please contact the school prior to August 14th to let us know if your student needs to ride the bus.
- Students will be screened prior to entering a bus. Please do not leave a bus stop until your student has been screened and has entered the bus.

SCHOOL EVENTS:

- Large gatherings at school will be limited during the first semester of school. We hope as conditions around the state improve that we can return to normal school events. So in order to prevent undue spread of a sickness, we will not have large "Meet the Teacher" events, "Meet the Mustangs", opening day assembly, Fall Fest, Grandparent breakfast, or the community Thanksgiving meal until further notice.
- UIL activities and sporting events **will** take place and there will be procedures in place for crowd size and mask wearing at these events. More information will come as we get closer to the beginning of these contests.

HEADPHONES/EARBUDS:

- We are asking each student to bring their own headphones or earbuds from home in order to best meet the needs of our students. **Please place these headphones in a zip lock bag with the student's name on it.** We will collect these on the first day of school and place them in the computer lab for your child to use when they go to the lab. High school students will use their headphones with their school issued laptop and so they will remain with the student.

SICKNESS/SCREENING:

- We ask that all parents closely monitor the health of your child daily before they go to school. It is critical that we keep students home that are showing any of the following conditions: FEVER, COUGH, SHORTNESS of BREATH, SORE THROAT, and BODY ACHES. It is also very important to limit the spread of a sickness from one child to another within your own home. If one child is sick with any of these symptoms and remains in "close contact" with their other siblings, then all of the students in the household would need to stay home. However, if you are able to properly quarantine a child that is sick, then it is likely that the other children in the household could attend school. **In these situations it is critical to contact the office if your child has an illness.**

We are very excited about seeing our students on campus!! As a District we feel we can make the most positive impact on our students with them being here at school and we are ready for the opportunity to do just that!. We look forward to working with students and parents to make this an incredible year for our students. Please call or email if you have any questions. See you soon!

Thanks,

Lenny Morrow

lmorrow@esc17.net or phone at 432-353-4888