

Important questions you may have

School starts on Monday, August 16th. We hope this helps you have a better understanding of student policies and procedures. If you have any questions do not hesitate to call the office at 432-353-4888.

1. Where and when do I drop my students off at school?

All students will be dropped off at the front of school this school year. Breakfast will be from 7:30 to 7:50 AM each morning. Elementary will be expected to be on campus and in the cafeteria by 7:50am each day. The first bell in secondary (6th-12th) will ring at 7:57 AM and the tardy bell will ring at 8:00 AM. Be on time and ready to roll!

2. Where do students go when they arrive at school?

It is very important that all students enter through the main entrance at the front of the school. Elementary students will be directed to the cafeteria and will sit in designated tables with their classmates until 7:50 AM. At that time, they will be escorted by their teachers to class. JH & HS students will wait in the break area or outside of the main entrance until 7:57 AM. They will be able to go get breakfast in the cafeteria during the breakfast serving time and they will be asked to eat in the break area outside the old gym or in the stands of the old gym. 8:00 AM will be the tardy bell for the JH and HS students. They must be in class by then.

*On the first day of school there will be Welcome Assembly in the auditorium. The assembly will start at 8:00 AM and all 6-12 students will report to the auditorium before 8:00 AM. Elementary students grades PK-5 will be allowed to drop their stuff off in their classrooms on that first day and they will then be asked to go to the cafeteria. Teachers will walk each elementary class over at 7:50 AM. Parents may attend the assembly if they choose but are not required to be there.

3. When does the school day end and how do we need to pick up our students?

- The last class will end at 3:45pm. Buses will leave by 3:50 pm each day.
- 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 3:50pm -- 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 a secondary student with younger elementary siblings walk around to the back of elementary to meet up with their younger siblings if they need to be picked up together.
- 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.

4. An important change this year is moving Junior high athletics to 8th period and high school athletics to 1st period. More specific instructions will be coming from coaches on more specific practice schedules.

5. When will students be eating their free breakfast?

Breakfast will be served in the cafeteria before school from 7:30 AM till 7:55 AM for all students except for High school students in athletics. Students in HS athletics will eat breakfast between 8:40 to 8:50 AM each day in the cafeteria after the athletic period.

6. Do students have an Open Campus?

According to school board policy, Sands CISD will be a closed campus. This means no student may leave during the school day without permission from the campus administrator unless parents or legal guardians sign them out. **Parents may bring food to students, but they will need to sit it on the black table in the front entrance to the building and let the office know.**

7. What is the policy on parents or guests coming to school during the school day?

We love for parents and guests to come on campus to visit with staff or their children. However, for safety precautions, all guests MUST sign in at the office when they come to school to pick up a child or simply to visit with a teacher or other school personnel during normal school hours. It is not appropriate for a guest to enter the building and walk hallways or go to a classroom without first signing in at the office.

8. How do I keep a check on my student's grades during the school year?

Sands CISD is offering a service to parents named "Parent Portal". Parent Portal is aptly named in that it provides parents a window through which they can view the attendance and grades recorded by teachers for their child. Any parent who has access to the internet will be able to take advantage of this service. Parent Portal is set up so that by using a username and password the parent can access a teacher's grade book and see the grades recorded for their child. Parental Portal is secure, and no other parent or individual will be able to access your child's information if you do not allow anyone else to have your username and password. If you are interested, you can obtain an authorization from the office at 432-353-4888. **If you already have an account, you do not need to create a new one. Those that already have an account will use the same username and password as last year.**

9. Dress Code?

The district's dress code teaches grooming and hygiene, prevents disruption, minimizes safety hazards, and maintains a positive learning climate. Students and parents may determine a student's personal dress and grooming standards, if they comply with the following:

- Students are not permitted to wear clothing with pictures, emblems or writing that is lewd, offensive, vulgar, or obscene or that advertise or depicts tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, drugs, or any other substance that students are prohibited from using at school.
- Students are not permitted to wear caps or hats inside the building during normal school hours.
- Students will not be allowed to have any visible tattoos.
- Students will wear hair clean and well groomed. Students are not allowed to have unnatural hair coloring, hair that extends down into eyes, or extreme haircuts. Any haircut that is determined by the principal that creates a significant disruption to the normal school day is not acceptable.
- Students' faces are to be free of facial hair and sideburns should only extend to the bottom of the ear.
- Students shall not have piercings anywhere except ears. Small nose studs are only allowed if they are small, clear/silver, and are approved by campus principal.
- Shirts will need to cover stomachs and need to be modest to avoid showing undergarments. Blouses, tank tops, or sleeveless shirts must be hemmed and should extend over the shoulder a minimum of 1.5 inches. There should be no clothes that are excessively revealing which create distractions to the normal school day.
- Spandex or leggings may be worn but there must be clothing worn over this material that extends to a minimum of mid-thigh to avoid being too revealing.
- Pants must be worn at the waist and no underwear showing.
- No additional or modified holes in any clothing item more than 4 inches above the knee is allowed unless covered with a patch.
- Shorts and skirts must extend in length to a minimum of 4" above the knee.

These dress rules are during school hours and during any school sponsored activities. Dress code for uniforms and practice gear for extracurricular competition and practices shall be determined by the coaches and sponsors under the guidance of the athletic director and campus principal. All decisions concerning the dress code are left up to the discretion of the principal. If the problem cannot be corrected at school, the principal will work with the student and parent to obtain an acceptable change of clothing for the student in a way that minimizes loss of instructional time. Repeated or severe offenses may result in more serious disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

10. What do I do if my child misses a day of school?

Attendance is critical to school success. We have a goal of a 97.5% attendance rate. This means each student could only miss 4 days or less for the entire school year to reach this goal. In those rare circumstances when a student must be absent from school, the student – upon returning to school – must bring a note signed by the parent that describes the reason for the absence; a note signed by the student, even with the parent’s permission, will not be accepted. The notes are due no later than 2 days after the student returns to school. Students who do not have a note from home will be marked UNEXCUSED. There are exemptions to being counted absence. They are listed below.

Exemptions to the compulsory attendance requirements

State law allows exemptions to the compulsory attendance requirements for several types of absences if the student makes up all work. These include the following activities and events:

- Religious holy days;
- Required court appearances;
- Activities related to obtaining United States citizenship;
- Service as an election clerk; and
- Absences resulting from a serious or life-threatening illness or related treatment that makes a student’s attendance infeasible, with certification by a physician
- Documented health-care appointments if the student is able to attend part of the school day, including absences for recognized services for students diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders. A note from the health-care provider must be submitted upon the student’s return to campus.
- Junior or senior student’s absence related to visiting a college or university will be considered an exemption, provided the student receives approval from the campus principal, follows the campus procedures to verify such a visit, and makes up any work missed
- Any student who leaves school to obtain a driver's permit or driver's license. A note or verification from driver's license office must be submitted upon the student's arrival back at school.

11. What is the cell phone policy/apple watches/air pods?

The cell phone policy has changed slightly. Please communicate with your student on the appropriate use of cell phones during the school day. Cell phones are allowed at school, but they **must remain put up in their backpack during the day.** Secondary students may have them out during the lunch period only but cannot use them any other time unless permission has been granted by school personnel. Apple watches will also be included in this rule since the apple watch can be used in a very similar manner to a Phone. Students will not be permitted to use Air

pods/headphones during instruction or passing periods unless granted permission for a school/instructional activity. They must be put up in a bag. Failure to follow these standards will result in the following discipline procedures:

1st Offense - \$5 fine or confiscated for 1 day

2nd Offense – \$10 fine or confiscated for 3 days

3rd Offense - Confiscated for 15 days (same will be applied to each offense thereafter)

We must remember that with freedom comes responsibility. Inappropriate use of cell phones and other forms of technology will not be tolerated and our policy will be strictly enforced.