

# Chattooga County Schools

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August 21, 2020

Good Morning Chattooga County families,

As you are aware, Chattooga County School District resumed in-person learning on July 30<sup>th</sup>, and how excited we were to welcome your student back to the building despite the challenges that came along with this choice. At that time, two learning options were made available to our families: in-person and from home virtual learning.

When the doors opened to the schools, we had a commitment from more than 90% of our families to return to in-person learning, with 10% electing to learn from home. Since that time, we have had an increase to 20% of families who have transitioned to virtual learning from home. In addition, we have students who have been asked to quarantine; therefore, adding to the number of students we have learning from home. A challenge that requires our teachers to provide a “split-classroom” instructional model. It is always our commitment to provide a high-quality education for all of our students and in order to stay true to that commitment we will need to switch to an instructional scenario that will allow teachers time to prepare instructional materials that will benefit ALL learning options.

This decision was not made lightly; it was made with much discussion and exploration of other options, and the support of the school board. This decision to change instructional scenarios is not due to a large increase in positive COVID-19 cases in our schools, but instead, due to the need to better serve ALL students.

Our philosophy is that students learn best when provided with direct instruction from our teachers in the classroom setting. However, due to the increased number of enrolled students receiving virtual instruction and the Department of Public Health’s mandates regarding quarantines for students and teachers related to positive cases and exposures, we will transition to a hybrid instructional model. The plan will be as follows:

- Beginning the week of September 14, students will attend school in-person Tuesday-Friday and distance learn on Monday. Mondays will be used by teachers to connect with virtual learners, create digital lessons and videos, and attend professional learning sessions to increase their capacity for serving students digitally and in-person (a split classroom). Students will NOT report to school on Mondays beginning September 14. However, all teachers and staff will report to school/work on Mondays. Buildings and buses will receive additional sanitation on Mondays.

While we understand an adjustment to our normal schedule may be an inconvenience to our families, we appreciate your patience and understanding of our attempt to keep our students in school despite the many challenges outside of our control that are influencing our day-to-day operations.

Transparency is one of our core values and we will continue to monitor positive COVID-19 cases within the school and community. Weekly status reports will continue to be provided, and should a transition need to occur prior to September 14, we will notify all students and parents.

Communication, social distance, masks, and frequent handwashing is the key to mitigating the spread of the COVID-19. We ask that you continue to follow the recommendations of the Department of Public Health by keeping your child home if they exhibit symptoms, feel sick or are awaiting test results for COVID-19. By following the recommendations, you help us limit exposure within our schools.

We appreciate your continued support as we continue to face the challenges of COVID-19. Your student’s education, health and well-being are our number one priority.

Sincerely,



Jared Hosmer  
Superintendent

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