

# **Chattooga County Schools**

## **How will school look for fall 20-21?**

### **Learning options and safety protocols**

As we work to develop plans to accommodate the personal preferences and medical needs of our families, the Chattooga County School System has two learning options available: in-person learning and virtual learning. We know the decision to return to school this school year is quite different from year's past, and a lot of thought will go into your decision as a family. Our goal is to offer a format that provides your family with the greatest amount of safety and peace of mind.

#### **Student Learning Options begin July 30th**

##### **Option 1: In-person Learning (Monday – Friday, 8:00-3:00)**

Students will return to their school full-time, adhering to required Chattooga County Schools safety protocols. Prior to choosing in-person learning, please review safety protocols outlined below. If it is determined due to COVID-19 that schools are not able to open on July 30th or that we must temporarily close, then a virtual learning plan will be initiated for ALL students. This plan will not be the same as the Virtual Learning Academy; it will be provided by CCS classroom teachers (plans will be shared & students will receive a “keep-at-home” resource folder within the first week of school). This type of virtual learning will only occur until it is safe to continue in-person learning. Should you wish to discuss in-person learning in more detail, please contact your school principal.

##### **Option 2: Virtual Learning**

Students may enroll in virtual learning with a partnership between Chattooga County Schools' and Pearson Connexus. Families who want and can learn from home will need to visit their child's school to complete the Virtual Learning Enrollment Process for each student between July 23<sup>rd</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> to ensure a virtual seat. Extended enrollment for virtual learning on a case-by-case basis will be considered July 30<sup>th</sup> – September 1<sup>st</sup> by contacting your school principal. Each student enrolled in the Virtual Learning Academy will receive instruction from a teacher with Pearson Connexus Academy, while remaining a part of the Chattooga County School System family. A district-issued Chromebook will be provided at the school when students complete the enrollment process. Attendance, grades, and completion of assignments will be monitored by Chattooga County School administration in partnership with Pearson Connexus Academy. Should you wish to discuss virtual learning in more detail, please contact your school principal.

You may also access a digital copy of the Frequently Asked Questions ([FAQs](#)) document for CCS virtual learners on the CCS website and school websites. You may obtain a print copy from each school's office or at the board of education office.

## Safety Protocol Guidelines

### Family Responsibilities

Any return to in-person learning requires collective responsibility for every CCS family. Failure to do such significantly compromises the health and safety of all students and staff.

It is imperative, now more than ever, that families:

- check your child daily for symptoms and keep them home when they are sick,
- drive your child to school when possible,
- do not send/bring sharable items to school,
- wear a face mask/covering when visiting the school, and
- contact the school nurse if you believe you or your child has been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

### Symptoms, Self-quarantine, Contact with Person with Positive CV19 Test

Any student or staff member who has a fever or other COVID-19 related symptoms will see the school nurse, and may be required to be absent from school (self-quarantine) until symptoms subside and/or cleared by your physician to return to school in-person.

Individuals within close contact to another person in their classroom or office who show COVID-19 related symptoms may also be required to self-quarantine. This will be a precautionary decision, and parents/guardians will be notified. We will not be able to release confidential information; only that contact was made with someone with symptoms.

Any student or staff member who has contact with a person with a positive COVID-19 test, whether at school or at another location, will need to follow the DPH guidelines for self-quarantine requirements. Contact tracing will be initiated by DPH, and parents/guardians will be notified. Privacy guidelines will be followed by all CCS staff.

Any student who is required to self-quarantine will be asked to obtain missed work from their teacher and will be allowed additional time to complete as needed.

*We will follow DPH & CDC guidelines. Please contact the school nurse for additional questions or concerns.*

### Face Masks/Coverings

Students and staff are encouraged to wear a mask/face covering inside the school building and on school buses, when social/physical distancing is not possible.

- CCS will provide a mask for students who ride a school bus.
- Exceptions may be made for both students and staff for medically documented reasons.
- For students with 504 or IEP plan concerns, please contact Ms. Beth Hall, Director of Special Education ([bhall@chattooga.k12.ga.us](mailto:bhall@chattooga.k12.ga.us))
- For staff with medical concerns, please contact your school's principal or Mrs. Dawn Campbell, Human Resources Director ([dacampbell@chattooga.k12.ga.us](mailto:dacampbell@chattooga.k12.ga.us))



## **Non-essential School Visitors and Volunteers**

To protect our students and staff, CCS will limit non-essential school visitors and volunteers to school campuses.

- Only invited visitors/volunteers or those with a documented need to visit will be considered essential and allowed entry into the school building. It is recommended visitors call ahead before visiting the school.

All essential visitors or volunteers will be subject to a temperature check and must answer the following COVID-related screening questions:

1. Have you had a fever in the last week? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Have you been diagnosed with COVID19? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Have you been in close contact with anyone diagnosed with COVID19? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Have you cared for anyone with COVID19? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Have you traveled to a "hot spot" for COVID19? \_\_\_\_\_

## **Classroom Protocols**

To provide the greatest degree of social/physical distancing and safety protocols, teachers will adhere to the following classroom guidelines:

- To the greatest degree possible, separate student desks.
- Limit sharing of supplies, books, toys, etc.
  - Any sharing requires disinfecting prior to passing from one student to another.
- Technology devices will be assigned to individual students and not shared among students.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in each classroom.
- There will be increased opportunities for students to go outside to learn.
- Use of disposable bathroom/hall passes will be required.
- Increased disinfecting between classes in settings where students change classes.

### **Temperature checks:**

- In elementary schools, homeroom teachers will check the student's temperature prior to entry into the classroom each morning.
  - Students with a temperature at or above 100.5° Fahrenheit will be referred to the nurse.
  - Teachers will maintain referral documentation.
- In middle and high schools, first period teachers will check the student's temperature prior to entry into the classroom each morning.
  - Students with a temperature at or above 100.5° Fahrenheit will be referred to the nurse.
  - Teachers will maintain referral documentation.

## **Media Center**

CCS will limit student use of shared spaces and materials in the media centers. Media specialist will provide access to learning resources in a manner that allows for the greatest degree of safety and sanitation.

## **School Meals**

Breakfast and lunch will be offered as grab-and-go. Meals will be pre-wrapped. Choices for students with dietary needs or other special needs will be accommodated; please contact your school with a special request.

Administrators at each school have designated classes who will use the cafeteria with social distancing and additional disinfecting protocols in place. When possible, students will be allowed to eat outside.

## **Outdoor Activities/Recess**

As frequently as possible, teachers will seek opportunities to allow students to complete lessons outside during the school day (weather permitting and space available). For elementary recess, classes will not commingle when possible, playground equipment will be unavailable for use (until further notice) and any outside toys will be disinfected between uses.

## **After-school Activities, Extra-curricular and Organizations/Clubs**

Students will have the opportunity to participate in after-school programs, extracurricular clubs, and activities based on ability to implement appropriate safety protocols and social distancing guidelines. Please contact the appropriate sponsor/coach or school administrator for detailed information.

### **GHSA-Sanctioned Athletics and Fine Arts Groups**

CCS is working in collaboration with the Georgia High School Association (GHSA) to develop and adhere to appropriate guidelines for athletic practices and competitions in middle and high school. We expect these guidelines to continue to evolve; each coach/director will provide updates to our students and their families as appropriate. As you have specific questions or needs, please contact your child's coach/director.

## **Bus Riders**

We ask that families be patient during the first few weeks of school as we navigate to implement additional safety protocols. It is possible that buses may be delayed in arriving at bus stops or schools and an increase in car rider traffic is expected.

- **Face mask/coverings and hand sanitizer**
  - Students are encouraged to wear face masks/coverings while on the bus.
  - Students are encouraged to help stop the spread of germs while in social settings and will be asked to use hand sanitizer as they board the bus.
  - \*The bus driver will have face masks available in addition to hand sanitizer.
- **Bus Windows**
  - To increase ventilation on the bus, bus windows may be opened (weather permitting) while students are on the school bus.
  - Students will be required to leave windows opened/closed as directed by the bus driver.
- **Social/Physical Distancing**
  - To the greatest degree possible, students will be socially distanced and placed in assigned seats on the school bus.
    - Students from the same household will sit together.
- **School Bus Cleaning and Disinfecting**
  - Between each bus route and load of students, CCS staff will disinfect the bus.

## **Field Trips and Student Assemblies**

During the 2020-2021 school year, student field trips, student assemblies and large group events/gatherings will be significantly limited. Consideration will only be given on a case-by-case basis.



## **School signage**

Signage will be placed at the entry point of school buildings to remind students, staff and visitors about the importance of social/physical distancing from others.

Signage will be placed throughout the school to remind students of personal hygiene (hand washing, covering a cough, etc.) and social/physical distancing from others. Additionally, signage will be used to create one-way directional walk patterns in some areas of buildings.

## **School Cleaning and Disinfecting**

Throughout the school day, enhanced disinfecting measures will be made to further disinfect high-touch areas. Additionally, classrooms, hallways, and common areas will be disinfected each night.

Hand sanitation stations will be installed at the entrance of each school building and throughout the common areas in each school.

Water fountains will be removed/covered and replaced with water dispensers.

The protocols were developed in collaboration with various state and local agencies, which include but are not limited to the Georgia Department of Public Health, Georgia Department of Education, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and are subject to change based upon recommendations and guidance from these and other agencies. As guidelines are updated and our protocols are modified, we will provide updates to all staff and families and post relevant information on our Chattooga County Schools website and local media outlets.