

Echols Middle School

Opening of School Plan 2020

Echols faculty and staff are looking forward to a great school year. We are committed to providing our remote and on-campus students an awesome educational experience that will prepare them for their bright future. We will have school wide cleaning schedules for physical safety and we will utilize effective social/emotional learning strategies that will allow our faculty and students to appropriately communicate their needs, fears, and challenges in a positive learning environment. We are in this together and we will do it the Wildcat Way!

On-Campus Learning or Off- Campus Learning Survey: Please visit the Tuscaloosa County School System's website, tcss.net to find information about your learning options for the upcoming year. You will also find a link to an on-line form, where you will let us know if your child is selecting the on-campus learning or off-campus learning option. The deadline to complete this form is Friday, July 31st at 5 p.m. There is a link to a video on both learning options on the tcss.net website. Please contact the school if you have specific questions about either option. The school number is 205-342-2884

Face Masks: Currently, there is a state-wide mandate to wear face masks when you are within six feet of a person from another household. Students 7+ and employees will be required to follow the mask order guidelines from the Alabama Department of Public Health. Masks will be provided by the school system, but you are also welcome to wear your own.

Buses: Students 7+ will be required to wear a mask on the school bus per the Governor's mandate. If the mandate is lifted, students will be HIGHLY ENCOURAGED to wear face masks while on buses. Students will have assigned seats and will use the same seat each day. Buses will be sanitized after routes every day.

Morning Drop Off: Drop off begins at 7:20. Students must be present in Homeroom by 7:55. Students will report to the gym until capacity is reached. Later arriving students will go to supervised classrooms. Students eating breakfast will go directly to the cafeteria. Students will remain in these areas until they are dismissed for 1st period.

Afternoon Dismissal: Bus riders will be dismissed by multiple bells. Car riders and walkers will also be released on later bells.

Classrooms: In addition to our regular cleaning schedule, each classroom will receive cleaning supplies and teachers are encouraged to clean and use hand sanitizer and soap throughout the day. Student areas will be cleaned after each period. At the end of each day, classrooms will be sanitized with a special misting machine. While in classrooms, students will be spread out as much as feasibly possible. Students will not be allowed to share school supplies.

PE: Students will participate in PE each day. They will not be dressing out. Athletic shoes appropriate for physical activity will be required. Classes will be separated. PE classes will be outside as much as possible. The gym and PE equipment will be sanitized with the misting machine between each rotation.

Water: Students are encouraged to bring a bottle of water each day.

Lunchroom: Students will go through the serving line and receive pre-packaged foods. We HIGHLY ENCOURAGE parents to add funds to student lunch accounts using MySchoolBucks.com. To adhere to social distancing guidelines, the lunchroom will only be filled to half capacity each day. Classes will alternate every 9 weeks eating in the lunchroom. It will be scheduled on a rotational basis. The days the classrooms are not in the lunchroom they will either eat outside or in the classroom. Lunchroom tables will be cleaned and sanitized between each class. Guests will not be allowed to eat lunch with students until further notice. We are asking parents to be sure to send all lunch items to school with students. We are not allowed to have students bring a lunch in a restaurant container.

Restrooms: In addition to regular cleaning, restrooms will be sanitized using the misting machines at the end of each day.

Visitors/Volunteers: Visitors and volunteers are not allowed during this time. ONLY emergency will be accepted by office staff.

Check-Ins & Check-Outs: If a student needs to check in or out, the parent/guardian must accompany them to the front door and ring the bell for assistance. A staff member will bring the check-in/check-out slip to the door. Visitors will not be allowed to enter the building during check-ins/check-outs.

Hallways: We plan on students moving in single file and in one direction as much as possible. We have reduced locker visits and transition time between classes. We will also have signs throughout the building to direct students.

Excuses for Absences: Students who are ill should not attend school. As possible, parents/guardians should e-mail 1st period teachers the excuse.

Nurse/Sickness: In the event that a student runs fever while at school, they will be isolated in a quarantine room close to the nurse's office until parents/guardians pick them up. If you are called to pick up your child due to illness, **they must be picked up with-in an hour.** Sick students should not be left at school for an extended period of time.

Remote Learning: Off-Campus Learning is known as REMOTE learning. Students who choose this option will need access to an ipad, laptop, or desktop (NOT Chromebook). There is a link on the TCSS.net website to choose this option. REMOTE learning will take place in 9 week increments. Teachers will upload weekly assignments If you choose to do REMOTE learning. Your child cannot return to school until the end of the 9 week period. REMOTE learning will also take place in the event of a school shutdown or student quarantine. This will be delivered via Schoology.com.

Medication Drop Off: Please call or email Nurse Kitchen to arrange.

First Day of School: We will have teachers, staff members, and student leaders in the hallway to assist students with lockers and locating their classroom.

6th Grade Visit: Parents were texted a link to sign up for visit slot on August 10th. Staff and student leaders will help these students tour building to find lockers and classrooms.

Virtual Open House: Teachers will be posting a video to our school website introducing themselves and giving you a virtual tour of the classroom. The videos will be posted before school starts.