

Spartanburg District Four Announcement
Regarding Instructional Model for Upcoming Weeks

Thursday, January 7, 2021

This message is intended for students, parents, staff, and community of Spartanburg District Four.

Beginning Monday, January 11, 2021, all Spartanburg District Four students (3K – 12th grade) will return to face-to-face instruction five days per week.

Spartanburg School District Four began the 2020-21 school year operating on a hybrid instructional model (the A/B schedule). District Four's goal has always been to have all students return to full-time, face-to-face instruction as soon as we believe it is safe to do so. We would like to communicate our plans for the upcoming weeks.

Preschool & Kindergarten

On September 28, 2020, preschoolers and kindergartners returned to school full-time (five days per week) in a face-to-face model. The transition to face-to-face for that age group has been successful thus far. Therefore, the preschool and kindergarten full-time, face-to-face schedule will continue throughout the school year *unless health concerns necessitate the need for a change*.

1st – 5th Grades

On Monday, October 19th, all 1st – 5th graders returned to school full-time (five days per week) in a face-to-face model. The 1st – 5th grade schedule of full-time, face-to-face instruction will continue throughout the school year *unless health concerns necessitate the need for a change*.

6th – 12th Grades

On Monday, January 11, 2021, all 6th – 12th graders will return to school full-time (five days per week) in a face-to-face model. The 6th – 12th grade schedule of full-time, face-to-face instruction will continue throughout the school year *unless health concerns necessitate the need for a change*.

Wearing of Masks

Our mask requirements for students have been the same since the beginning of the 2020-21 school year. Students are required to wear masks on buses, during entry into and dismissal from school, and while in common areas within the school, such as hallways, restrooms, etc.

Masks in PreK – 3rd Grade

Students in preschool through 3rd grade will be required to wear masks on buses, entry into school, dismissal from school, and in common areas, such as hallways, restrooms, etc. ***Students in grades PreK-3 will not be required to wear masks while in their classrooms.*** The family model will be utilized, so interactions among children from different classrooms will be limited.

Masks in 4th & 5th Grades

Based on information regarding children's susceptibility to COVID-19, 4th and 5th graders seem to have greater susceptibility to COVID-19 than younger children. Therefore, students in 4th and 5th grades will be required to wear masks on buses, entry into school, dismissal from school, and in common areas, such as hallways, restrooms, etc. ***Students in 4th and 5th grades will also be required to wear masks while in their classrooms.*** They will be provided with mask breaks when they are outside or in expansive spaces and able to maintain social distance. We will monitor any cases that occur in these grades and may lift the mask restrictions as soon as we believe it is safe to do so.

Masks in 6th – 12th Grades

Students in grades 6 – 12 will be required to wear masks on buses, entry into school, dismissal from school, and in common areas, such as hallways, restrooms, etc. ***Students in 6th – 12th grades will also be required to wear masks while in their classrooms and unable to maintain social distance.*** They will be provided with mask breaks when they are outside or in expansive spaces and able to social distance.

It is our hope that this information will be helpful to you in planning your schedules. We are also hopeful that we can continue to provide a safe learning environment while bringing larger numbers of students into the schools five days per week with the understanding that we are not able to maintain social distancing. If circumstances should change that cause us to move from the full-time, face-to-face instructional model, we will notify you of any revisions through the district and school websites, Facebook, and/or phone messages. As always, we appreciate the support you have provided during these challenging times, as we navigate the most effective ways to educate students while keeping them as safe as possible.

**If your child is currently on the virtual model, they may remain so until the end of the school year.*