

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OKALOOSA COUNTY

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
MARCUS D. CHAMBERS

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July 2, 2020

Dear Parent,

The 2020-2021 school year is fast approaching and we are taking steps to create a safe school environment for your child. You are receiving this letter because your child is enrolled in one of our schools for the upcoming year, and we want to provide you with additional information about how Okaloosa Schools will operate in the COVID-19 environment this fall. **We would also like to inform you about the options for your child that are available through the District.** Reopening plans remain fluid, and new guidance from the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) and health officials may lead to adjustments.

Tuesday, August 11th is the first day of the 2020-2021 school year, and school will be in session in all of our buildings. The following options are available for your child:

- **OPTION 1-Traditional School:** Your child attends school in the school building with health and safety precautions in place (see below for additional information). Since your child is already enrolled in school, ***you do not need to take any action to choose this option.***
- **OPTION 2-mySchool Online:** This option is designed for families who would like to maintain their connection to their enrolled school but do not yet feel comfortable sending their child back to the school building in August. Students selecting this option must remain online until the end of a semester. The format will be similar in concept to what occurred online this spring but with several adjustments (see the table on pg. 2).
 - **Instructions for signing up for mySchool Online are at the bottom of this letter.**
 - **In order to ensure proper teacher staffing and scheduling, we ask that parents make this selection by July 15.**
 - **Enrollment is for a minimum of one semester.**
 - **Device and internet access are required (will be provided for those who qualify for Free/Reduced Meals).**

Keep in mind that our situation remains fluid, and we are prepared to make necessary adjustments should the need arise. We thank the Department of Health for their continued guidance during this process.

A few of the health and safety enhancements that will be occurring at your school include:

1. **Screening at school:** Wellness screening of students and staff will occur in the morning at school through the use of signage, verbal questions, visual assessment, and temperature checks. The District has secured a supply of touchless thermometers that will be deployed to all schools.
2. **Masks:** The District has secured a mask for every student and staff member. At this time, masks are strongly recommended where social distancing cannot be maintained.

ADMINISTRATION COMPLEX-120 LOWERY PLACE S.E.-FORT WALTON BEACH, FLORIDA 32548
TELEPHONE (850) 833-3100 FAX (850) 833-3436

CARVER HILL ADMINISTRATION COMPLEX-461 W. SCHOOL AVENUE-CRESTVIEW, FLORIDA 32536
TELEPHONE (850) 689-7117 FAX (850) 689-7121

3. **Classroom space:** Schools are examining classroom space, removing unneeded items, and changing layouts where possible to promote social distancing. Schools may make use of media centers, auditoriums, and other areas to create more space for classroom instruction.
4. **Classroom supplies:** There will be less sharing of classroom supplies and those that are shared will be cleaned after each use. Desks will be cleaned throughout the day.
5. **Cafeterias:** Your school is developing plans to reduce the number of students eating in the cafeteria at one time. Media centers, auditoriums, outdoor spaces, and other school areas will be used as feasible. “Grab and Go” meals are also being considered.
6. **Large gatherings:** We will limit large gatherings such as pep rallies and assemblies during the school day. Schools will reduce student traffic in the hallways and at lockers, where feasible.
7. **School buses:** Hand sanitizer will be presented to students when they get on the bus in the morning and afternoon. All frequently touched surfaces will be disinfected and all bus seats will be sanitized after each use. Students will wear masks while riding the school bus due to the inability to social distance.

Changing Expectations for *mySchool Online* – OPTION 2

<i>Online Learning that occurred during the 4th quarter last year</i>	<i>mySchool Online 2020-2021</i>
Compassion and Grace in all facets of the process	Continued compassion and grace but with higher expectations and accountability for students
Students were only required to complete quizzes and tests	Students will be required to complete all assignments, quizzes and tests
Students were allowed to take quizzes and tests up to 10 times each	Opportunities to take quizzes and tests will be limited like they are in the traditional classroom
Expectations for student pacing were not formalized	Daily expectations for student work
Very flexible expectations for contact with teacher	Regularly scheduled times for contact with teacher
Students were able to finish the year in their enrolled courses	Certain courses and electives may not be available
The program lasted for nine weeks	Students remain enrolled through a semester
K-5 Curriculum platform – Odysseyware	K-5 Curriculum platform – Accelerate
6-12 Curriculum platform – Edgenuity	6-12 Curriculum platform - Edgenuity

If you would like to select *mySchool Online* for 2020-2021

1. Log in to Parent Portal at www.okaloosaschools.com under the *Parents/Students* link.
2. Your child’s student ID is required for login.
3. The PIN is the last four digits of the student ID.
4. Complete the information requested and submit. Your child’s school will contact you to verify your request.
5. If you have more than one student, you will need to log in and complete the process for each child.
6. Please contact your school if you need assistance. **Please make your selection by July 15.**

****REMINDER: If your child will be attending the brick and mortar school in August, no action is needed.****

Respectfully,

Marcus D. Chambers
Superintendent of Schools