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Hello Stallions,

All of us, of course, are dealing with the many and varied effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. One of these effects is ongoing uncertainty over future health and safety guidelines to be issued by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the State Department of Health (DOH). Such guidelines will affect how our schools reopen/stay open for in-person educational activities and how schools deliver these activities. For frequently asked questions, please visit <https://www.pasco.k12.fl.us/reopening>. After Pasco County District's decision to move the start date back two weeks, the new start date for school and students will be on August 24th. We will be following the district guidelines on health and safety needs as we meet ALL students' educational requirements.

We really do miss our Stallions and are very hopeful that ALL of our students will be able to learn on campus in due time however, we are aware of the realities that will prevent us from being able to open the 2020-2021 school year with all of our 800 plus students physically together for the entirety of each school day.

With that in mind, SMES is planning for what has been termed a blended approach called mySchool Online(MSOL); combining on campus and distance learning but even though not here in person they still are OUR Stallions. They will be participating in many of the same opportunities as traditional students including wheel spinning for their team, Stallion of the Quarter, and many other opportunities. As we finish the month of July and journey into the unknown month of August, we wanted to leave you with these reminders:

- Masks are mandatory for all attendees to school. This includes visitors, students, staff, etc. There will be mask breaks where social distancing can be done and of course at lunch.
- School will start on 8/24.
- "MEET YOUR TEACHER DAY" will be on August 20th. **ONLY** K students and new to SMES will be allowed to visit campus on that day. All returning students will have a virtual experience including our "mySchool Online(MSOL)" students.
- We will have the same arrival and dismissal procedures as we have done in the past. Dismissal will be more spread out than before. Kindergarten students' parents with masks will be the only visitors walking students back to class on the first day during arrival. This will be from 8am-815am, with all K parents to be exiting by 820am. More details to come). We will be sure to have all staff members available to help escort students to their classrooms during arrival for that week.
- Supplies are being ordered for the health and safety of our staff and students. Items like masks, face shields, sanitizers, etc. have been ordered.
- No one on the staff will be able to take temps at this time except the clinic assistant when necessary.



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- Cafeteria: Students in a cohort(class) can sit together and we will skip a seat or more in between each student as required by the district. Cohorts/Tables will be separated by 6-feet. There will be a specific entrance and exit for the lunchroom. More specific details to come.
- The “share-bin” in the cafeteria will not be available for students to share unwanted lunch items.
- Special Area Subjects(Art, Music and PE) will look differently as Art will be on a cart, Music will be partly on a cart and partly in the room and PE will be outside. All classes will still have staff and students wear masks unless social distancing can be done. Ex. PE may be easier to social distance and masks can be removed when outside. STEAM classes will still be held every other week.
- **Please do not send sick students to school that exhibit but not limited symptoms of Fever (> 100.4°), cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, sore throat, chills, muscle pain or body aches, headache, loss of taste/smell.**
- There will be a step by step process that will be taken seriously when it comes to a sick child and/or employee at school. Details to come.
- There will be a device distribution day for MSOL students on August 13th from 8:00am-5:00pm in the bus loop. Details to come on our website and social media along with a sign-up genius. Refer to our SMES website for details.
- There will be no lunch with students or buddy booths or in-classroom volunteers for the 1st semester.
- There will be no animals in the classroom for the 1st semester.
- There will be no clubs at the school the 1st semester.
- Tutoring cannot take place on school campus the 1st semester.

For all updates throughout the year, please visit our website, sign-up with your teacher on Dojo, become a FaceBook Friend and follow us on Twitter!

If you are considering switching options, please refer to the district guidelines and communicate with the SMES of any changes. The district guidelines state:

Once I choose an option, can I change my mind later?

A continuous and consistent learning environment is best for student success. However, we understand that parents and students might have compelling reasons to seek a transition from one option to another, so we will provide opportunities to do so when available. For the sake of continuity, transfers from one learning option to another should occur after the completion of a semester.

We will provide periodic updates as we go through the year, and we suggest that you consult our school website and <https://www.pasco.k12.fl.us/reopening> to keep aware of changing circumstances. This is a very fluid time of change and I ask you for your **patience and understanding** to make this year just as remarkable and memorable as the previous years. Please frequently visit our website and look out on social media (FB, Twitter and Dojo) for future updates!

4 Houses=1 Family, Transforming the World!

Jason Petry
Principal



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District School Board of Pasco District
Wide Accreditation-Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI)
Kurt Browning, Superintendent