

## **Shady Hills Elementary School Covid-19 Related Changes for the 2020-2021 School Year**

Our number one priority at SHES is providing a world class education to your student. In order to do that, we must keep the students and staff safe and healthy. The following procedural changes are necessary in order to mitigate risk of Covid-19 and maximize the attendance of staff and students.

### **Absences/Health:**

If your child is sick (fever, coughing, sneezing, or flu-like symptoms) or has recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19, they will be required to stay home and monitor their health. This also applies to school staff. There is a self-screener available on the district website under ReOpening that should be reviewed daily by parents and staff prior to coming to school.

Staff and students should stay home if they have tested positive for or are showing COVID-19 symptoms. See the CDC recommendations for monitoring illness.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html>

\*Please visit our Shady Hills Elementary web page:

<http://shes.pasco.k12.fl.us> to report your child's reason for absence and upload a doctor's note to return to school.

### **Arrival**

Car riders will not be permitted to exit their vehicle before 8:20 due to Covid-19 regulations as well as lack of adult supervision before that time. Please stay in your vehicle and at 8:20 school staff will let your child out of the car in the loop. Kindergarten parents will be able to walk their children to class on the first day of school only. No other parents will be able to walk their children to class.

### **Conferences:**

We encourage every family to conference with their child's teacher at least once a semester. Please schedule an appointment to conference with a teacher before school, after school or during their planning time. We recommend this be done through use of video chat for convenience and safety of both parties. Please contact your child's teacher to set up a conference.

### **Dismissal**

Dismissal time has been changed from 2:50 to 3:08. This is a result of the loss of two weeks at the beginning of the school year. By adding this time to the end of the day throughout the year, the lost instructional time will be recouped.

Walk-up pick-up is no longer an option at dismissal. All students will either be a car rider (all parents will stay in the car loop in their cars) or a bus rider. In order to try to expedite the car rider dismissal at the end of the day, we will be running a double lane dismissal in the car loop instead of a single lane as normal. More information will be forthcoming.

### **Early Release:**

Early Release will begin in January 2021. Early Release was cancelled for August, September, October, November, and December.

If you wish to pick your child up early from school for a scheduled appointment, please call the front office ahead of time. Students who need to leave early must be picked up from the office prior to 2:30 on regular school days. After 2:30, students will be dismissed only to the car line/loop or busses.

### **Events:**

School events will be limited. We will communicate alternative virtual events throughout the first semester of the school year.

### **Food for Parties**

Only individually wrapped items purchased through our cafeteria snack program will be allowed for birthday celebrations, etc.

### **Lunch**

Parents will not be able to eat lunch with their children at school during the first semester of school. This will be revisited/reassessed over the winter holiday. Kindergarten students will be eating in the cafeteria while socially distanced. Students in grades 1-5 will be eating lunch in their classrooms.

### **Masks/Face Coverings**

A face covering is required on all school busses, in all school buildings, and while on school grounds during all school-sponsored events and activities. This requirement is applicable to all students and to all employees, parents, and visitors.

Everyone is responsible for supplying their own face coverings. **At SHES, we highly recommend the kind of face mask that is worn around the neck and pulled up over the face to cover the nose and mouth. These are frequently referred to as “gaiters” or “buffs.”** The reason this type of face covering is preferred is because it stays on your child even when the nose and mouth is being purposely exposed such as at lunch while eating or drinking and during times such as at recess while playing outside and social distancing is feasible. Though other types of masks such as those that loop around the ears are permissible, they could present issues when taken off and laid down on surfaces, picked up by other people, lost, etc. If this type of mask is selected, a lanyard with a pocket or clip is recommended to hold the mask when not in use.

For the purpose of the rule requiring face coverings—masks, scarfs, bandannas, fishing buffs, gaiters, and other items made of suitable and safe material that will cover the nose and mouth and prevent the release of respiratory droplets are suitable. The following will NOT be allowed: ski masks, gas masks, Halloween/Costume masks, pantyhose, full face masks, string-pulled hoodies, or masks that obstruct the wearer's vision.

Face coverings must also comply with the dress code in that they shall not display profane, offensive, or disruptive subject matter, words, etc.

It is recommended that you have five washable masks so that your child can have a clean mask for each day of the school week. Of course, if this isn't possible, it is permissible to wash and wear masks again during the week.

I do not anticipate problems with students complying with the mask requirements. However, in the event that this should arise, the following procedure will be enforced. Students who refuse to abide by the face covering requirement will be counseled (along with their parents) related to the face covering requirement. If after the conference, the behavior continues, the student will be removed from the brick and mortar school setting and educated utilizing either MySchool Online or Pasco Eschool.

It is going to be very important that parents/guardians make clear to students the expectations outlined above. When children know that the school and home are on the same page, the likelihood of successful implementation of the requirement is dramatically increased. School staff will also be communicating the expectations with students regularly.

Full documents outlining the district process and procedures regarding face coverings, personal protective equipment, and temporary code of conduct necessitated by Covid-19 can be found on the district web site: [www.pasco.k12.fl.us](http://www.pasco.k12.fl.us).

### **Recess**

Students will not have access to the playground equipment in semester one. This will be reassessed at the winter holiday. Each class will be assigned an area outside when possible to use for recess play.

### **School Times:**

Due to the delay in the school year, each school day will be extended by 18 minutes. Our new end time is 3:08 p.m. (instead of 2:50 p.m.).

### **Visitors/Volunteers**

Visitors and volunteers will be very limited in the building and on the grounds during the first semester.

### **\*Other Safety Precautions for Covid-19**

Front door to the school will remain locked and the number of people permitted in the office at one time will be limited.

Busses will be unloaded one at a time to limit mixing of bus cohorts and decrease the number of children in one area at a time.

Breakfast carts will be separated into primary and intermediate locations and children will be rerouted during entry to aid in social distancing.

For grades 2-5 where we specialize for ELA and STEM, instead of switching students' classes, teachers will switch location to reduce children touching desks and materials from another cohort.

Desks will be set in rows facing the same way and social distanced to the extent possible.

Bathrooms have been reassigned so that only one classroom cohort uses a bathroom in their dens.

Art and music teachers will go to the den classrooms in order to eliminate multiple cohorts of classes rotating through a single art or music location.

PE classes will be divided into their class cohorts instead of being taught in one larger group. This will decrease mixing of cohorts.

If a child is suspected of being ill, they will not be walked to the clinic by a buddy, but will instead be escorted by an adult if their age requires it.

We will have a separate clinic location for students displaying symptoms such as a fever so they are not mixing with a student getting medication or first aid. Students needing a simple band aid etc. will be handled in the classroom instead of leaving the cohort to go to the clinic.

Enhanced cleaning routines will be scheduled which include things like disinfecting high touch surfaces throughout the day (door knobs, etc.). Teachers will also be provided with the materials needed to keep their areas wiped down.

Hand sanitizer stations have been placed in higher traffic areas throughout the building.

Teachers will be reviewing hygiene procedures such as hand washing and mask care frequently with students.

(This is not a complete list of everything that has been planned to mitigate risk and keep students and staff safe, but it gives a good overview and answers many of the frequently asked questions we have received.)

(Everything presented here is subject to change as we learn more and the situation evolves.)