

## ***2020-2021 Back-to-School***

### ***Questions and Answers***

#### **Masks**

- Will masks be required? Yes, all K-12 students will be required to wear a mask while waiting at school bus stops, while riding the school bus, during school hours, and while waiting outside school buildings before and after school. All staff members will also wear masks per district policy.
- Will the school provide masks? Yes, the school will provide masks to students who arrive without masks; however, students are encouraged to bring their own masks.

#### **Students shall wear masks at all times except for the following:**

- Students may remove masks and face coverings for eating or drinking;
- Students may remove masks and face coverings when appropriate social distancing measures are in place as determined by a teacher or school administrator;
- Students may be exempted from this Emergency Policy by the school principal due to a documented medical condition of the student;
- Students may remove masks and face coverings on a case-by-case basis for specific instructional needs, including physical education activities, as determined by a teacher, in which case the teacher will require appropriate social distancing measures to the extent possible; or
- Students may be exempted from this policy due to special behavioral or individualized needs as determined by the Director of Special Education or the Superintendent, and
- Participating in athletic activities where a six feet distance is not achievable, but a mask is inhibitory to the activity.

#### **On-Site Visitors and Communication with School Personnel**

- Are visitors allowed in school buildings? Under current Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) guidance, visitors will not be allowed in the school buildings except for the office area. Although visitors are allowed in the school office, we encourage parents to call the school office or email us rather than visiting in person. Parents will not be allowed to eat with their children. We will also discontinue large group gatherings (assemblies, pep rallies, etc.). This guidance may change at a later time, but this is the guidance we have today.
- May I walk my children into the school building? No, parents and guardians may not walk them into the school building, but they may walk their children to the school entrance. Visits to the school will be limited to essential activity.
- How do I contact my child's teacher? Parents may reach teachers via email. Email addresses are listed on the district's website. In certain circumstances, a telephone conference may be appropriate.

## **Traditional, On-Site School**

- What do I need to do if my children will attend traditional school? You do not need to do anything. We will plan to welcome your children to class on the first day of school.
- What is the first day of school for students? Under current guidance, school will begin on August 24, per Governor Asa Hutchinson.
- How will parents learn more about the first day of school procedures? Principals will record a video that will be posted on Facebook and the district's website. Teachers will be releasing more information via an online platform during the second week of August. Follow the Charleston School District on Facebook for more information coming soon.
- Will the schools host open house? We will have open house for select grades only:  
9<sup>th</sup> Grade, August 4 & 6—9<sup>th</sup> grade students will receive a letter with instructions.  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade, August 13—5<sup>th</sup> grade students will receive a letter with instructions.  
Kindergarten, August 18—Teachers will personally contact parents to schedule a time.  
All other grades will receive information virtually.
- Will the school host open house for pre-kindergarten students? The pre-kindergarten program has its own set of DHS rules that the district must follow. Teachers will contact parents personally to discuss procedures that must be followed.
- Who monitors students when they arrive at school? As students arrive, teachers will be on duty to monitor students and assure students are wearing masks and practicing social distancing to the extent possible.
- Will students' temperatures be taken before they enter the building? No, parents must take their child's temperature each morning. Any student with a fever of 100.4 degrees or greater will not be allowed to come to school. We must work collectively to promote the health and safety of our students, staff, and community members; we expect all of our students and staff members to follow appropriate ADH guidelines to minimize exposure and risks.
- Should I keep my child home if he/she isn't feeling well? Yes, we will actively encourage students and staff members to stay at home if they are sick. Everyone, students and staff, will be expected to stay home when they are sick.
- How will the district handle someone testing positive for COVID-19? The ADH controls the procedures to be followed once a student or staff member tests positive. We will follow the guidance and direction provided to us by the ADH.
- Will students eat in the cafeteria? Yes, students will eat in the cafeteria based on current ADH guidelines. We will seat fewer students at a table and utilize all available tables. Parents will not be allowed to eat with their children.
- Will students use water fountains? No, all students are asked to bring a bottle of water, and the district will provide water bottle filling stations.
- Will good hand hygiene be followed? Yes, we will actively teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water. If soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer will be available.
- Will elementary and middle school students have recess? Students will have recess, but recess may not look the same. We will follow ADH guidelines in effect at that time.

## Virtual Learning, Online School

- What is the difference between Virtual Learning and Home School? ***With Virtual Learning, the Charleston School District is responsible for providing the online curriculum; the district will also loan a Chromebook to any student who needs one.*** With Home School, parents and guardians are responsible for providing all curriculum and necessary equipment and/or materials, and parents are completely responsible for their child's education.
- How do we register for Virtual Learning? With Virtual Learning, Parents and guardians may complete the electronic, Virtual Learning registration form located on the district website or call the schools' office to register.
- Is there a deadline to register for Virtual Learning? We are asking parents to complete Virtual Learning registration by August 7<sup>th</sup> so we know how to plan for your children.
- If a student begins Virtual Learning, can he/she return to the school? The first two weeks of school will be a trial period and students may return to traditional, on-site school. After the trial period, we will then be asking students to remain in Virtual Learning until the end of the grading period, unless approved by the superintendent.
- If we select Virtual Learning, is my child still enrolled as a Charleston student? What about the various forms and paperwork that we normally fill out? Yes, all students participating in Charleston Virtual Learning will continue to be Charleston School District students and parents will complete routine paperwork.
- How will Virtual Learning be delivered? All instruction will be online; there is no in-person, on-site instruction for this option. All students (K-12) will be expected to participate daily.
- For Virtual Learning, will there be a teacher actually teaching the students? Students engaged in Virtual Learning will receive instruction through a grade level appropriate, online platform. Charleston teachers will be available as a resource via email. Email addresses are listed on the district's website.
- My senior student only needs one (1) English credit to graduate. How many classes does he/she have to take? Seniors may take ONLY the courses required for graduation.
- Will virtual students be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities? Yes, students who are enrolled in Charleston's virtual program, regularly attend practice, and otherwise meet all eligibility requirements may participate in extracurricular activities.
- My child participates in Virtual Learning and extracurricular activities. If I choose Virtual Learning, will I have to take him/her back and forth for extracurricular activities? Parents must provide transportation for students to attend onsite extracurricular activities.
- Is the Internet required for Virtual Learning? Yes, reliable internet is required.
- Will the school provide a computer for virtual students? Chromebooks will be loaned to students (who request them) for Virtual Learning.
- Will there be a Virtual Learning Orientation? Yes, there will be a Virtual Learning Orientation held at each campus. This is a time to learn more about the virtual program and borrow a Chromebook, if your child needs one. Chromebook insurance will be offered for \$20. The purpose of this insurance is to cover accidental damage.

### **Virtual Learning Orientation Schedule**

- Both students and parents attending Virtual Learning Orientation must practice social distancing and wear a mask.
- High School Virtual Learning Orientation, August 18 and 20, @ High School Cafeteria at 6:30 p.m.
- Middle School Virtual Learning Orientation, August 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. @ Middle School Auditorium
- Grades K-2 Elementary School Virtual Learning Orientation, August 20 at 6:00 @ Elementary School Cafeteria
- Grades 3-4 Elementary School Virtual Learning Orientation, 3-4, August 20 at 7:30 @ Elementary School Cafeteria

### **Future Announcements**

- How will I know if information and current guidance changes? We will post announcements on social media and the district website. Follow the Charleston School District on Facebook. Our website is found at: <http://tigers.wsc.k12.ar.us/>

### **More Information**

- Who can I talk to if I have more questions? We anticipate information will change as guidelines for schools are revised by the State of Arkansas and CDC. These uncertain times are new to us too. We respectfully request your patience as we strive to meet the educational needs of each student. We also encourage parents and guardians with concerns and questions to call us at one of the office numbers listed below:

Charleston School District, 479-965-7160

Charleston High School, 479-965-7150

Charleston Middle School, 479-965-7170

Charleston Elementary School, 479-965-2460