

8/31/2020

**Mrs. O'Bryant's Desk-**

**Newsletter #5**

**2020-2021**



**Very important: Picture day will be scheduled at a later date for grades 5-8.  
(LifeTouch sent out an incorrect email about school wide pictures.)**

**There will be pictures taken of our grade 5 students who come to the SMS visit on  
Sept. 3 during the times assigned for each pod.**

**Important Dates:**

- **Sept. 1 & 2- Chromebook pick up for remote students/pictures-See times listed.**
- **Sept. 3- Grade 5/new student visit 12-3 by pod. See times listed . School Pictures**
- **Sept. 8- First Day of School for Students**
- **Oct.1- Next date to change option from remote to live etc..**
- **Oct. 12- Columbus Day No School**

## Dear SMS Parents and Guardians,

I hope that you have all received your child's Pod assignment by the time of this communication. Please note that the pods were set up around family members who live in the same household. We could not address pods around friends and extended family. We have a plan that is solid to manage contact tracing in school. We hope that outside of school everyone is practicing the safety measures of hand washing, mask wearing and social distancing to prevent the spread of Covid-19. Thank you for understanding our Covid parameters for safety measures.

This pod assignment is important to start to think about the logistics that go with our middle school model.

- Your child's advisor is the key person for any contact and communication.
- The pod entrance is the next most important piece of information.
- In-person students grades 5-8 will receive their Chromebooks once school starts.

Students will walk to their Pod Entrance around the building whether they get off the bus in the front or a parent drops them off in the back.

- There will be three entrances in the back : Purple,Blue,Green
- South side by grade 6/7-Yellow
- Front Entrance -Red

Parents will drop off for all pods in the back upper lot only at the designated student drop off spot. We will only be able to let one student at a time, when instructed by the teacher on duty get out of the car. We know this will be slow, but it is important that we do not have multiple students walking in the building at the same time from different pods. This will be very slow the first week, so please be patient.

### **Traffic Patterns- Bus/cars 7:10-7:30am**

- **We are continuing the same bus and parent drop off areas as we have had in the past.**
- **Please do not drop off your child before 7:10am**
- **Please be patient as many more parents will be dropping off their children in the back upper parking lot and we are only letting one person out of the car at a time.**
- **Students need to be ready to get out of the car as soon as they are told they can leave the car.**

We are creating a directory of students and parent names in each pod .This will give our parents information to organize carpools or share resources throughout the school year by pod. If you don't want your name in this directory please let me know by Sept.2 - 2pm

### **Sept 3-Grade 5/New Student visit - In person students only**

Sept. 3-This visit will be for grade 5 and new students who are coming in-person to SMS. Each visit will be for one hour.

Parents will be asked to wait outside while students take a tour of the school.

Masks and social distancing will be mandatory.

### **Sept. 3 Grade 5 and new student visit times- In person students only**

- 12-1:00pm Red Pod
- 12:30-1:30 Blue Pod
- 1:00-2:00 Purple Pod
- 1:30-2:30 Green Pod
- 2:30-3:30 Yellow Pod

When it is time for the Pod visit -

- Parents will park out back and will be directed to the tent area in the back.
- Parents will be in one area and students from the same pod will be in another area.
- Students will go on a tour of their classroom area and entrance procedures.
- Students will then go to the gym to have their picture taken.
- Parents will meet their child outside the gym door.

### **Chromebooks/Remote student pictures- Remote Students - Sept. 1 & 2**

This will be done by pod and in the gym.

Students and Parents will go to the side entrance to the gym

Parents will wait outside and get student materials.

Students must wear masks

Chromebooks will be distributed by Pods on the days assigned

We will take pictures of remote students at the time of chromebook pick up in the gym.

### **Sept. 1- Remote student chromebook pick up by pod**

**Red Pod 12-1pm**

**Blue Pod 1-2pm**

**Purple Pod 2-3pm**

### **Sept. 2-Remote student chromebook pick up by pod**

**Green Pod 1-2pm**

## Yellow Pod 2-3pm

Remember that the plan is for students to stay in the same assigned classes, whether they are remote or in-person, with the same teacher. We do ask that if there are any changes to a child's status, that it be done by the first day of each month. Parents filled out surveys in August for their choice. To make any changes we may have to wait 4-5 days before the student can go to the new program of choice. The next date to change your option would be by **Oct. 1**.

We are excited to have a plan to get our students back to school and offer an in-person program. The tents will offer a different learning experience that will offer a safer environment with plenty of fresh air. We hope that the tents will offer more of a camp-type experience for our students and staff. It will be important that students dress appropriately for different weather throughout the day from morning to afternoon.

Again, for our new students and parents-

Here are some of the highlights of the middle school model for reopening to school.

- Please screen your children each morning before they come to school- temperature check, ask screening questions.
- Anyone with a temperature of 100 degrees or more will be sent home immediately.
- Students will be assigned to a Pod of approximately 75 students grades 5-8.
- Class size will be approximately 15 students.
- Classes will be grade level classes except for Advisory which will be made up of two grade levels.
- Students who choose the remote option will be remoting into the classes they are assigned to at SMS. They will follow the in-person schedule.
- Each student will take four Core Classes and two Unified Arts classes
- Students will stay within their assigned pod at all times.
- There will be classes in tents throughout the day.
- Classrooms will have windows open for fresh air.
- There will be a separate entrance for each pod to limit students from being in groups coming in or leaving the building.
- No visitors are allowed in the building.
- All students and staff will be screened when they come in the morning.
- We ask all parents to screen their children and take temperatures each morning before they get on the bus.
- Students must wear masks throughout the day. Mask breaks will be given in each class.
- Computers will go to and from school every day. Chargers will stay at home to charge computers before coming to school each day.
- Advisory will be at the beginning of every day.
- The schedule is the same whether one is remote or in-person.
- Attendance will be taken in every class.

School supplies for 2020-21- Here are some suggestions for school supplies this year which are different from any other year.

- Zippered binder that will hold the chromebooks . **12" x 8"**
- White lined paper for the binder
- Personal scissors (small)
- pencil sharpener
- Students will need their own pencil boxes with pens,erasers etc.. Students will not be able to share their supplies with other students.
- Hand sanitizer
- Sunscreen -non aerosol
- Warm clothes and shoes for outside activities each day. (Coat,gloves,boots,hats, sweatshirts.)
- We have individual whiteboards that students may use but some students may want their own personal whiteboard and markers to put their name on and keep in their backpack.
- Two water bottles so that they don't have to fill up bottles throughout the day. (Labeled)
- Multiple masks in a backpack each day.
- Backpacks to bring personal items each day.

Safety discussions:

Please have discussions about the safety expectations with your child at SMS.

- The purpose of the health screening each day before they get on the bus and when they enter the building.
- Purpose of wearing a mask
- Washing hands
- Hand sanitizer
- Social distancing 6ft.
- Pod groupings for contact tracing.
- Not sharing belongings with other students.

**Lunch- Please note that we will not have microwaves available for lunch to avoid common area contamination.**

**Here is a note from our SMS Counselors-**

**Dear SMS Families**

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! With our new pod system in place, the counseling department wanted to let you know how the counselor assignments will look this year. It's a priority for all of us to maintain pod integrity, and it is with this in mind that we have determined the following pod assignments. Judy Winters will be the counselor for Pod 1 (Blue), Pod 2, (Red) and Pod 3 (Green). Stephanie Smart will be the counselor for Pod 4 (Purple), Pod 5 (Yellow), and all remote students. In addition, we are happy to welcome our new Student Support Counselor, Jill Evelyn, who will provide additional counseling and intervention for students' social and emotional needs.

We look forward to a great year!

Sincerely,  
Stephanie Smart  
Judy Winters  
Jill Evelyn

See you soon!

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