

2020-21 New Student/Parent Orientation Meeting

SMS Gym: Monday, August 3, 2020

- I. Welcome:
 - a. SMS Motto is “Expecting Excellence”, and this is no different in 2020-21 that it was back in 2015 when we opened. Our goal this year is to teach your kids, take care of your kids, and excel all year long. We are not in this profession to allow circumstances, no matter how challenging they may be, dictate our success. “I believe that we will win!!!”
- II. Items covered in the C. Royal video and Powerpoint Slides
Information Word Document on the SMS website:
 - a. Supply lists
 - b. Dress Code items
 - c. Nurse/Medical/Blue forms
 - d. Class change plans – two groups, staggered
 - e. Parent access to building
 - f. Day 1 plans
 - i. Doors open at 7am and students will be directed where to go for HR. Teachers and signage will help students find their way.
 - ii. Looks like we may have a staggered start the first four days for students. A-K on Mon/Wed; L-Z on Tue/Thu, and everyone on Friday
 - iii. Parents not allowed in the building with your children. Contact the SMS office, Nurse Layfield, or C. Royal before the students’ first day with any questions you may have.
 - iv. A reminder, on students’ first day, only send them with paper/pen or pencil and locker organization or decorating items. They can bring their school supplies later that week.
 - v. Students will be given time on their first couple of days to get to their lockers and practice their combinations. Also, students, a reminder that NO contact paper or stickers can be used in/on lockers. Magnets are ok to use.
- III. Meal Information:

- a. Free/Reduced Form are online at ECBOE website in the link on the right-hand side entitled “My School Apps”. This has to be updated annually and it helps SMS with our Title I funding, so everyone is encouraged to fill it out by the end of August. This link appears to be active at this time.
 - b. Breakfasts will likely be eaten in classrooms
 - c. Lunches will be eaten in classroom and in the lunchroom. Specific plans are still in the works.
 - d. There is a payment box where students can drop off money in an envelope to add to their account. Also, MySchoolBucks is still available to use to add money to your child’s account.
 - e. Snacks and drinks may be purchased from our vending machines. However, all student water fountains are closed.
- IV. Disinfecting/Cleaning/Custodial items:
- a. Germ X stations: Cintas (around 20 stations in the building, some mounted, and some on stands)
 - b. Students - one pump/use.
 - c. Do not move/damage stands
 - d. Custodians will be receiving advanced training on disinfecting and deep cleaning techniques.
- V. Class change:
- a. ½ kids at first bell, have 3 minutes to lockers and to class
 - b. Other ½ kids at “tardy” bell and teachers allow 3 minutes to lockers and class.
- VI. Bathrooms for students:
- a. Limited to only a few at a time: Specific plans are still in the works.
 - b. “Social gatherings” in bathrooms without teacher supervision or awareness will not be allowed, even during class changes.
- VII. Student Drop-off/Pick-up:
- a. Enter campus at marquee entrance and drive around campus. Exit is at the other driveway onto Sardis Drive (east side, closest to Whitesboro).
 - b. Speed limit is 10mph when students are on campus.
 - c. Stay in single-file line on right side of drive.
 - d. Once you have dropped off or picked up your child, you may pull into the left lane to exit campus.

- e. We will get name placards for parent vehicles the first few days of school.
- f. Students may load and unload along the sidewalks and not necessarily right in front of the door. Please follow all teacher/administrators directions at car rider lines.
- g. Buses ALWAYS have the right of way on the SMS campus. Please keep this in mind and do not run through our stop signs or block any intersections on campus.
- h. This year, we are likely going to have 7th & 8th graders at the front of the building. This will allow greater separation between students but may not result in quicker pick up times. Parents of 7th & 8th graders are not to pass cars picking up 6th grade students at the awning by the 8th grade hallway (east side of building).
- i. In the afternoons, parents are not allowed to be on campus to pick up their child before 2:15pm.
- j. School day begins at 7:35am (students are tardy if not inside the building by 7:40am).
- k. Bus riders are dismissed at 2:45, Car riders at 2:50.

VIII. Cell Phone policy:

- a. Cell phones are allowed at SMS during the school day but are not to be in use during class change, in bathrooms, or any other location or time without a teacher/administrator's permission.
- b. Students are to use SMS phones to contact parents during school hours. Using their cell phone without teacher/administrator permission is a violation of our cell phone policy.
- c. Any videos, pictures, social media posts that come from bathrooms or dressing rooms will result in severe disciplinary consequences.
- d. Students are not allowed to post on any social media outlets during school hours without teacher/administrative permission.

IX. Virtual School Plan of Action:

- a. For Virtual students who need Chromebooks, we will work a plan for these to be picked up at SMS sometime the week of Aug. 10-14.
- b. For Traditional students, we have enough Chromebooks to use in most of our core academic classes but won't have enough to go fully 1-to-1 until the ones ordered by the ECBOE arrive in September.
- c. If you are not sure if your child filled out the application to be a Virtual School student, please email Coach Royal or call SMS and we

can check our spreadsheet. There was some confusion about the surveys and the application (they were not the same thing).

- d. Before the end of August, students can change from Tradition to Virtual and vice-versa. Contact the SMS office if you want to make changes in this with your child.
- e. After August 28, students can only change at the end of a nine-weeks grading period.
- f. Even our traditional students will be using the ScholsPLP curriculum and learning management system (platform) on some days at SMS. This will help all students and teachers be better prepared for remote learning should schools have to close for any reason.

X. General Information:

- a. No gum allowed by students at SMS.
- b. No fieldtrips will be scheduled as things stand now.
- c. AHSAA athletics for 7th & 8th graders are still scheduled for this fall. 6th graders cannot play “school sports” until 7th grade.
- d. Lockers: If you have any issues with the ones bought this morning, or you need to purchase one, the SMS office will be open Tuesday and Wednesday mornings (Aug. 4 & 5) from 9-noon and you can purchase them at that time. They will also be available during our inservice week of Aug. 10-14. It would be advisable to call to be sure office staff are available and not in meetings from Aug. 6-Aug. 14. Lockers can also be purchased once school begins.
- e. SMS Website, Facebook page, and School Messenger are the three primary ways we try to get school information out to parents. Keep an eye on these and let us know if you are not receiving any School Messenger alerts.
- f. At this time, per Governor Ivey’s order, masks are required of teachers and students. Parents please help us with this when talking with your children.

XI. Student Focused Items:

- a. The entire SMS faculty and staff understand our role as stewards of the time and opportunities we have with your children during their days at SMS.
- b. We see it as our privilege and responsibility to come alongside our students and their parents to help grow our students as they enter their teenage years and on into adulthood.

- c. Parents, know that your kids will face challenges in middle school that is unlike any they have faced before, or will face even in high school and beyond. We do not want to eliminate these challenges, rather we hope to help equip them to be able to be resilient in the face of adversity, both now and in the future.
 - d. As parents, you are advocates for your children, and, as a result, we may sometimes see a situation from different perspectives and even disagree over the right course of action. Know that we are not “out to get” any of our students. But with a population of 400+ students and 40+ adults at SMS, we must have rules, policies and procedures in place to operate as smoothly as possible. Our goal is to be fair, firm, and consistent as much as possible.
- XII. Parent Encouragement Items:
- a. Parents are encouraged to be proactive in contacting your child’s teachers early if you see any issues of concern.
 - b. Parents are encouraged to stay on top of your child’s academic progress (especially important this year for our Virtual students). They cannot afford getting any further behind than they may be from our missed class time in the spring.
 - c. Unless an issue appears to be illegal, immoral, or unethical, parents are encouraged to email/contact teachers directly about any incidents that may occur under a teacher’s supervision (ie. Classroom discipline, question about grades/test scores, issues with other students and your child). You are absolutely encouraged to also include Coach Royal or Mr. Brannon on these emails/contacts.
 - d. Parents are encouraged to contact the appropriate SMS personnel before posting any complaints or venting frustrations on Facebook or other social media about SMS student related issues. If we are made aware of an issue, we will look into it and try to resolve it to the best of our ability.
 - e. COVID-19: Coach Royal is the contact at SMS should your child test positive for Covid-19, or need to be quarantined for any reason with regards to Covid-19. We understand the importance of confidentiality, and FERPA laws and will keep names “out of it”, but we need to be informed ASAP of any SMS student concerns regarding positive tests for Covid-19.