

A Message from the Superintendent – Fourth Quarter Information for Families

March 16, 2021

Dear SEL Families,

At the start of the fourth quarter on Monday, April 12, all South Euclid Lyndhurst Schools students who wish to return for in person learning may do so. The remote learning option also will be available for students who choose to pursue remote learning for the fourth quarter of school.

We believe that in person learning is the best learning environment for most students because it provides opportunities for students and teachers to engage and interact with each other in person and allows us to better support student academic success and social-emotional development with students onsite.

The recent local COVID-19 data has improved substantially, and we expect this trend to continue in the coming weeks and months. Studies have shown that opening schools generally does not significantly increase community transmission, particularly when guidance from relevant health authorities is followed. With these improvements, guidance and recommendations for COVID-19 safeguards have continued to develop and the District remains dedicated to adjusting COVID-19 precautions to comply with current recommendations and guidance. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) strongly advocates that all policy considerations for school COVID-19 plans should start with a goal of having students physically present in school. We are striving to meet that goal while following the most recent guidance for doing so.

The AAP, World Health Organization (WHO), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Ohio Department of Health (ODH), and Cuyahoga County Board of Health (CCBH) guidance provides that six feet physical distancing should be used where feasible, but guidance also expressly acknowledges that six feet distancing may not be feasible in all instances. When six feet physical distancing is not feasible, the guidance indicates that physical distancing of no less than three feet is appropriate in an educational setting. Thus, while we agree that six feet physical distancing should be maintained when possible, in line with applicable guidance, when six feet physical distancing is not possible, the District will comply with all guidance and recommendations to implement physical distancing of not less than three feet in addition to implementation of other protective measures.

We understand that some students have documented medical considerations that require an online learning environment. However, we ask that you consider the increasing body of research indicating the safety and effectiveness of onsite learning, the reduction in local community spread, and the vaccination of staff and faculty when making your student's selection.

We are grateful for staff and students' adherence to our health and safety protocols and encouraged by improving local COVID-19 data. This combined with approximately 500 staff members and providers who received their second dose of COVID-19 vaccine on Wednesday, March 3, gives us confidence in our ability to continue our plans for in person learning.

All families, students and staff should review the following important information regarding fourth quarter onsite learning:

- The District plans to maintain the current onsite learning schedule at all buildings. Please note, Arc Wednesdays will be modified due to Ohio State Testing and other requirements from the Ohio Department of Education. More details to come from building principals.
- The District will continue to strive for six feet physical distance between students, wherever possible, and will adhere to current AAP recommendations that desks be placed at least three feet apart and ideally 6 feet apart.
- When necessary, depending on the number of students in each building/classroom/space, the District may implement three to six feet of physical distance between students in addition to other mitigation techniques in compliance with federal, state, and local guidance and recommendations. This may include breakfast and lunch spaces.
- To accommodate for potential additional students at lunch, buildings may utilize outdoor spaces as needed if weather permits.
- Students and staff will continue to wear masks, wash/sanitize their hands frequently and maintain appropriate physical distance.
- Daily temperature checks will continue to occur.

You can access the Fourth Quarter Declaration by [clicking this link](#). Responses to this form will help the District make any necessary adjustments to accommodate additional onsite students.

Each school will communicate additional details for in-person learning directly with their families after the District determines how many students will be onsite.

Again, thank you for your individual efforts at school and in the community to stop the spread of COVID-19.

Sincerely,

Dr. Linda N. Reid,
Superintendent
South Euclid Lyndhurst Schools