



Samson Elementary School

Reopening Plan 2020

A Message from our Principal

I am very excited to meet and get to know all of the Little Tigers at Samson Elementary School. It is an honor to be the Principal of such a great school and community. Although we are starting the 2020-2021 School Year off with a lot of procedures/precautions, I feel it could be one the BEST years ever! Communication will be the key to a successful year. Please be patient with us as we navigate new guidelines and procedures.

Meme Stafford
Principal, Samson Elementary

Geneva County Schools screening continuum

HOME is the first point on the screening continuum. Students and employees that exhibit the symptoms of COVID – 19 should stay at home. Families are encouraged to self-monitor symptoms of illness, which could include fever, dry cough, stomachache in children, sore throat, etc.

TRANSPORTATION is the second point on the screening continuum. Buses will have visible signage or other notice to communicate the symptoms students should not have if traveling on a school bus. Hand sanitizer will be available for students on the school buses. Bus drivers will place symptomatic students in an isolation seat and notify a school official upon arrival to school.

SCHOOL is the final point on the screening continuum. School staff will visually check for symptoms during the school day (which may include temperature checks) and/or confirm with families that students are COVID – 19 symptom free.

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Classroom Teachers will monitor signs and symptoms of COVID-19. Any students that exhibit symptoms will be sent to the school nurse for further evaluation.

School Nurse will check temperature and monitor student. Parent notification will follow if any symptoms are observed.

Healthy Habits

FACIAL COVERINGS have been described as one method to reduce the spread of coronavirus by both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH). For students there is not a state requirement for facial coverings. **Geneva County Schools require facial coverings for students grades 2-12 per state mandate.** Under current health orders, “each employee shall, to the greatest extent practicable, wear a mask or other facial covering that covers his or her nostrils and mouth at all times when in regular interaction within six feet of a person from a different household”. To be most effective, face coverings should cover the mouth and nostrils. Local ordinances of county and/or towns could require facial coverings. Geneva County currently does not have any such orders, but this could change at any time. Geneva County Schools is providing a mask and/or face shield for employees. Parents that would like for their student to have a mask and that may have difficulty acquiring one should contact their school office for assistance. The care and sanitation of facial coverings will be the responsibility of the individual. Instructional and learning needs will be considered. For instance, in teaching reading in early childhood, seeing the teacher’s face for phonological queues can be helpful to the learner; in one-on-one close contact. All CNP employees will wear a mask, food-safe disposable gloves, and aprons during meal serving.

MAINTAINING PHYSICAL DISTANCE between persons is another method that may reduce the risk of spreading coronavirus according to both CDC and ADPH. Maintaining physical distance will not always be practical/possible inside school settings (including buses) and there should be no expectation to do so. However, Geneva County Schools will implement best practices when possible and practical. For instance, space may not allow placing six feet between student desks, but it might be practical to place a little more space between desks and to face them all in one direction. Assigned seating and seating charts will be required for all classrooms.

PROPER CLEANING AND SANITATION are important tools to kill viruses and, thus, reduce the spread of infection. Geneva County Schools will implement best practices in proper sanitization. Care will be taken to make sure the appropriate sanitizers are purchased and that custodial staff understand the proper application as well as safety precautions. Proper hand washing and/or the use of hand sanitizers is also a tool to kill viruses and remove them from the environment, thus reducing the spread of infection. Teachers will instruct children to wash hands and to apply hand sanitizers in a safe and responsible manner as we have done for decades. Geneva County Schools will have a heightened awareness of the importance of these practices. **PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY** is expected of all students and stakeholders. We all must take personal responsibility. This simply means to be responsible in your decisions – stay at home if you are sick, wash your hands often, don’t touch your face, keep a distance from non-household members, wear

facial coverings if you are at risk, sneeze and cough in a tissue or your elbow, check your temperature often, monitor members of your family/household for symptoms of COVID – 19. If you have a known exposure to COVID – 19 you are encouraged to self-isolate and contact your healthcare provider and the school nurse.

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We will have sanitation stations placed throughout the school to prevent the spread of germs and promote a healthy routine of hand washing and sanitation. We will reinforce good habits throughout the day and create a routine that will increase sanitation awareness within our school.

Custodians will take extra measures by additional cleaning of common areas and the use of disinfection machine to spray walls, classrooms and bathrooms throughout the day (to include before and after the students arrive).

Classrooms will be cleaned throughout the day. Students will be spaced out within the classroom to promote the best possible distancing and create a safe learning environment. **Students will have procedures in place to keep their area clean (to include devices).**

Lunchroom tables/surfaces/doors will be cleaned before and after each group of students enter and eat. There will be extra hand sanitizer and sanitation supplies available in the lunchroom. Lunch Schedule will be staggered and we will remain at 50% capacity during lunch.

There are 2 curriculum options available to our students:

Traditional School with best practices implemented; grades K–12; students may switch from Traditional School to Virtual School but must remain in Virtual School until the change in the grading period (end of each nine weeks).

Virtual School is offered to students in grades K–12 who have concerns about returning to traditional school; the Alabama Course of Study standards are provided through an online learning environment; students are required to take tests at their base school by appointment; students must remain in Virtual School until the change in the grading period (end of each nine weeks).

Students who choose Traditional School will follow established procedures of the past; students choosing Virtual School will complete the online application by the end of the business day on August 7, 2020. You can find the application at **www.genevacountyschools.com**.

The student will be expected to provide their own device and internet connection at home for Virtual School; paper packets used in the Spring of 2020 will NOT be available; technical support will not be provided by Geneva County Schools.

All options will include grading. Report cards will be distributed for all students, regardless of the option selected. All students will be expected to take the state testing during the school year, which will be given on campus. A Virtual School representative will coordinate testing procedures and instructions.

Teachers Begin - August 7, 2020

Students Begin - August 28, 2020

170 Student days

187 Teacher days

Last Day Students – May 27, 2021

Last Day Teachers – May 28, 202

Daily Schedule

*Students will report to their homeroom upon arrival to school

*Breakfast will be delivered to and eaten in the classroom, as always

*Lockers will not be used this year; students may use a rolling backpack

*Classrooms will be arranged to promote social distancing

*Face coverings are required for students in K-12 grades

*Recess/Break will be outside; students will be grouped and assigned designated play areas and times will be staggered to limit number of students outside at one time

Recess Schedule

1:15-1:30 K

1:15-1:30 2nd

2:00-2:15 4th

2:05-2:20 5th

2:15-2:30 1st

2:15-2:30 3rd

The playground/outside area has been divided and teachers will remain in their designated area to limit student numbers in one space; we are fortunate and have a large outside area

*Students/employees will be allowed to bring and have bottled water for use during the school day; water fountains will not be in service or available

*School lunches will be pre-made plates or sack lunches and may be consumed inside the classroom or outside (weather permitting) on picnic tables; proper sanitation practices will be practiced in the serving areas and in the classrooms

*Parents are encouraged to pay for meals using our online payment system My School Bucks, which can be located on the Geneva County Schools' webpage

*Physical Education will social distance as much as possible without disrupting the integrity of the lesson/activity

*Playgrounds, lunchrooms, and other common areas will be sanitized after each use; each classroom will be sanitized after each transition

*Hand sanitizer will be readily available in classrooms, common areas, and hallways as long as supplies last

*When checking students out of school – only one person should enter the school and report directly to the office; **the visitor MUST wear a mask and should respect social distancing**

The afternoon bus lines and car lines will require more time as we accomplish this task of socially distancing. Students will be spaced inside and outside to promote social distancing when possible/practical, please use patience and please remember to stay in your vehicle – no early check outs unless it is for health reasons or healthcare appointments

Lunch Schedule

10:30-11:00 Pre-K

10:45-11:15 2nd Grade

11:00-11:30 1st Grade

11:15-11:45 K

11:30-12:00 3rd Grade

11:45-12:15 5th Grade

12:00-12:30 4th Grade

We will have a weekly rotation. Pre-K, K and 1st grade will always eat in the lunchroom. One week, 2nd and 5th will get their lunch and eat on picnic tables outside or in their rooms. The next week, 3rd and 4th will get their lunch and eat at the picnic tables or in their rooms. With this plan in place, we will have no more than 122 student in the lunchroom at a time.

Special Events

*Open house activities will be at Samson Elementary on **August 10th, 2020 from 11:45pm-2:45pm**

*Masks will be required for attendance and students will attend by last name, times are staggered to support social distancing

*Field trips will NOT be taken until further notice

*School assemblies will be limited

Visitors to Campus

*Parents may register their children prior to the first day of school by appointment. Call the Mrs. Revel's office to make an appointment. Parents who have not enrolled their children prior to the first day of school will need to call and make an appointment to do so. **Parents will not be permitted to enter the building to enroll students during the first week of school.**

*Visits to campus during the school day will be limited; essential visits only

*Parents will not be allowed to walk students to class on the first day of school

*Visitors to campus during the school day will be asked to wear facial coverings and may be subject to temperature checks

*Parents/guardians will not be allowed to come on campus during the school day unless it is to pick up a sick child

*Every person not employed or enrolled must sign in and give the reason and phone number for contact in case the information is requested by the ADPH

*Parent conferences are encouraged, but should be held virtually or by phone

Attendance

*Samson Elementary School will continue to record/take attendance and enforce compulsory attendance laws

*Special absence codes associated with COVID-19 have been created and will be considered excused absences for students diagnosed or in quarantine, with proper documentation

Transportation

*Social distancing on a school bus is not practical. Geneva County Schools will implement best practices to try and prevent the spread of COVID - 19. Best practices like assigned seats, loading back to front, unloading front to back, and safe bus behaviors will be implemented to promote health and safety.

*Drivers – school buses will be sanitized before each trip●

*Students – students are required to wear a facial covering while on the school bus; students will be required to sit with family members; students who develop or exhibit symptoms will be asked to sit in an isolation seat; bus drivers will report students displaying symptoms to the appropriate school personnel upon arrival at school; hand sanitizer will be available on each bus as long as supplies are available; students are encouraged to bring their own hand sanitizer; assigned seating will be required.

