



## **Southside Christian School COVID-19 Information** (Updated August 2021)

### **OUR MISSION**

While our circumstances may continue to look different in the 2021-2022 school year, our mission remains the same.

*We are a Christ-centered school that partners with families to provide a rigorous academic experience in a nurturing environment, equipping each student to embrace God's unique plan for life.*

### **2021-2022 FLEXIBLE LEARNING MODELS**

We are currently offering on campus learning, five days a week, to all of our K-8th grade students and our "normal" Preschool schedules. As we continue to follow the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) and Spokane Regional Health District (SRHD) for guidance, we are prepared to offer three Flexible Learning Models and are prepared to navigate back and forth among them as necessary.

The most recent guidance for schools was released by the DOH and can be viewed here: [DOH July 28, 2021 School Requirements](#)

During our 2020-2021 school year, we had ZERO cases of in school COVID-19 transmission. We are one of the only schools in Spokane County that did not have to quarantine students due to in school transmissions.

1. **On-Campus Learning** (this is our preferred model)
2. **Distance Learning** (K-8th if there is a class quarantine)
3. **Hybrid Learning** (only if mandated/required)

## **Mandate or Requirement vs. Recommendation**

### **“Why is SCS following the guidance from the DOH and SRHD since it is a private school?”**

We have had some questions about why we are following guidance from our Washington State health officials while some other private schools in Spokane County are not. We can not speak to the decisions of other schools. If the DOH or SRHD puts out a **mandate or requirement** for a health related issue, ALL schools (both public and private) are required to follow the mandate/requirement. A school could be shut down if they do not enforce the state and local health requirements put into place if they are operating with students in the building.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the mandates/requirements put into place are currently the law under the governor’s “Emergency Power of Law.” Ignoring these mandates would be breaking the law. At the most recent Northeast Washington Educational School District meeting, it was made clear that schools -- public, private (both state-approved private *and* non-state-approved private schools), preschools, and daycares -- which do not adhere to the relevant health requirements will face consequences which could include shutting the school down (Attorney General Memo on Health Emergency Authorities, chapter 246-110 WAC, enforceable by the Spokane Regional Health District in consultation with the Secretary of the Department of Health).

Following guidance from the DOH and SRHD is not new for our school. We have done this before COVID-19. They set out healthy practices for schools such as the guidance for wildfire smoke and when we should keep students inside for recess due to unhealthy air quality. Our rental agreement with Manito Presbyterian Church is contingent, among other expectations, on our adherence to state and local health requirements and mandates. This is not a change from previous years: our rental agreement with the church has *always* required us to comply with state and local health guidelines.

However, if something in the guidance is a “**recommendation**” then we have the choice to do what is best for the whole of our school community at Southside. Decisions about navigating this time will be made with our SCS Board of Directors, Administrative Team, and with the feedback from teachers, staff, and parents through surveys (when something, such as masking, is changed from a mandate/requirement to a recommendation).

## **MODEL #1: ON CAMPUS LEARNING**

We prefer this model and will continue to offer this unless otherwise mandated by our local health agencies. For the 2021-2022 school year, we will offer our enrichment classes on campus. This will return us to our normal on campus schedule for K-8th grade, with a staggered drop/pick up schedule.

**K-3rd:** Doors Unlock at 8:40, school starts at **8:50 (School day= 8:50-3:20)**

**4th-8th:** Doors Unlock at 8:30, school starts at **8:40 (School day= 8:40-3:10)**

By following the DOH Regulations outlined for Washington schools in the document titled, "K-12 COVID-19 Requirements for Summer 2021 and the 2021-2022 School Year," we will be able to make this happen at SCS with a full school day/week schedule as allowed by our state and regional health district guidelines and mandates. This may look different throughout the year as we continue to work with the SRHD. Currently, we are able to offer on campus learning for our entire school. In our 2020-2021 school year, we were approved by the Spokane Regional Health District to open Pre-2nd at the start of the year, to add 3rd grade in October, and to add 4th-8th grade in phases in January.

## **PROVIDING A SAFE ENVIRONMENT ON CAMPUS**

- **CLEANING:** This is a normal practice before COVID-19, but it is important that you are aware of our cleaning procedures. All classrooms are equipped with disinfecting supplies, and enhanced cleaning procedures are in place throughout campus. The entire campus will be cleaned and disinfected (with CDC/OSHA approved products) by Southside staff daily. High-touch and high-traffic areas will be cleaned and sanitized throughout the day.
- **MASKS/FACE SHIELDS WITH DRAPE: (Currently a requirement from the Washington State DOH in all schools)** Well fitting cloth face masks with multiple layers, or medical masks are the preferred face coverings. Medical masks are also offered in a child size and we've found they are preferred by a lot of kids due to comfort and breathability. Face shields with a drape that goes around the entire head (see example <https://etsy.me/2Yb0R5A>) are also acceptable. Snug-fitting gaiters that are multiple layers and don't fall off the nose will work as well.

- **HAND WASHING:** In addition to encouraging regular hand washing, we will provide hand sanitizer in each classroom, office, and other areas as necessary.
- **CLASSROOMS & SOCIAL DISTANCING:** We have measured all classrooms and have arranged desks (K-8th Grade) in a way that ensures proper social distancing between all students and the teacher. Students will be spread out as much as possible during the school day to ensure proper social distancing. We followed this matrix, developed by a prodigy from Caltech, for our calculations. This young man, who we met with in June 2020 for guidance, made Forbes! See the article here: <https://bit.ly/2BWhFpt>
- **INCREASED AIR FLOW:** As per recommendations from DOH, each classroom and large space (such as Preschool Large Group Room or Lunch Room) has increased air flow/circulation/filtering of air using MERV-13 filters.
- **STAGGERED ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL TIMES:** When recommended to do so by our local health district, students will have an assigned door to enter and exit the building within a set time to avoid exposure to other students not in their grade. The school day will be the same amount of time for each student; however, drop off and pick up times will vary. This list was compiled by looking at our Southside families so that siblings can have similar or close to the same, drop off and pick up times.
- **LIMITED INTERACTIONS:** In addition to your child's classmates, students at Southside will be set up in small pods that share a recess, PE, and a lunch schedule. Students will have little or no contact with students from other pods during the school day.
  - Pod 1, Preschool
  - Pod 2, Kindergarten and First Grade
  - Pod 3, Second and Third Grade
  - Pod 4, Fourth and Fifth Grade
  - Pod 5, Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Grade
- **LUNCH:** K-3rd grade students will eat lunch in the cafeteria in their pod as mentioned above. Students in Preschool and 4th-8th grade will eat lunch in classrooms or picnic-style outdoors.

- VISITORS: We are restricting non-essential visitors. Visitors who must come to campus will follow the health screening and safety protocols required of all students, faculty, and staff. A limited number of volunteers will be allowed in the school building at this time.
- PHYSICAL BARRIERS: Plexiglass barriers have been installed in areas where social distancing may not be possible, such as the main office.
- SIGNAGE: Signage will be used throughout the campus to remind our community about wearing masks, social distancing, washing hands, and other safety precautions.
- ENTRANCE/DAILY SCREENING: **If a member of your immediate household is showing symptoms/testing for COVID/waiting on testing results, students must stay home until a negative test is shown.** If a student's temperature is at or above 100.4 degrees they should stay home. When anyone arrives at school, they will have their temperature checked at the door upon arrival.
- WELLNESS CHECK: Faculty and staff will periodically conduct student wellness checks throughout the day. If a student appears to be ill, their temperature will be taken; if it is above 100.4, they will be isolated in our Recovery Room and their parents/guardians will be contacted to pick them up.
- HYGIENE: Students are asked to bring their own water bottles filled with water and will not share items with other students. Hand sanitizing stations are available in all classrooms. A personal bottle of hand sanitizer is encouraged for each student to have in their desk.
- TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS: Please check the WA State Travelers page for current guidance. Contact the school with any questions.  
<http://bit.ly/3sXphOc>
- OUTDOORS OFTEN: There are several educational experiences that can be brought outdoors. In addition to our regular recesses, outdoor classrooms will happen as often as possible at the Manito Strip (between 29th and Jefferson Elementary) or Manito Park. Permission for this will

be part of our back-to-school paperwork. \*See OUTDOOR LEARNING, MASK REQUIREMENTS.

### **MODEL #2, DISTANCE LEARNING (K-8th grade only)**

This plan is set for the occasion(s) where learning from a distance is a sacrifice we'll make for various reasons, or if school is open and a pod is temporarily closed due to quarantine. This model that Southside teachers have training for includes:

- Multiple live sessions with the teacher(s) each school day (see *Sample Distance Learning Schedule* below). The length of each session time will vary depending on the grade.
- Hands off approach for parents, student learning will happen with the guidance of teachers
- All school work will be completed in session or in a small group or with teachers and support staff between the start of the day and dismissal
- Live instruction, small and large group work, and independent activities
- Specific times scheduled for each subject
- Bible classes
- Virtual chapel each week
- Blended learning and some asynchronous (learning not at same time) instructional models for student support.
- Set times for intervention, support, and connections for parents and/or students to meet with teachers
- Use of Google Classroom as our school-wide Learning Management System
- Chromebooks (laptops) for 1st-8th grade students that have preloaded required software for immediate learning per grade and classroom monitoring software. Tablets for kindergarten with preloaded software as appropriate.
- Intervention support as needed
- Enrichment experiences as supplements (PE, Music etc.)

### Sample K-8th Grade Distance Learning Schedule

*This schedule may be adapted per grade level for optimal learning.*

<b>Time</b>	<b>Session</b>
9:00-10:00	Morning Meeting and Live Session 1*
10:00-10:30	Student Support/Break/Chapel Once a Week
10:30-11:30	Live Session 2*
11:30-12:00	Student Support/SmallGroup/Check-Ins/Break
12:00-1:00	LUNCH/FREE TIME
1:00-2:00	Live Session 3*
2:00-3:00	Optional Enrichments (Asynchronous)

\*Live Sessions will be adapted for each grade and will include a variety of the activities mentioned in our distance learning model. This is NOT necessarily screen time that students would experience the whole time. Depending on the grade, attention span, etc. this time will be used differently for each grade level. Brain breaks, stretch/wiggle breaks and similar breaks will be led or encouraged by the teacher to stimulate and encourage the best engaged learning environment possible.

## **DISTANCE LEARNING EXPECTATIONS**

### **Student Roles and Responsibilities**

- Establish daily routines for engaging in the learning process.
- Identify a space at home where you can comfortably learn and study, limiting distractions if possible.
- Regularly check SeeSaw (K-2nd) or Google Classroom (3rd-8th) for assignments.
- Complete assignments with integrity and academic honesty.
- Communicate with the school when you need assistance. We're here to help!
- Attend live instruction appropriately dressed.
- Have all materials ready to go and with you (book, sharpened pencil, calculator, etc).
- Be ready to learn and participate with your classmates as instructed.
- Keep your video on and computer muted unless instructed differently by the teacher.
- Use your headset or earbuds to ensure that we can hear you for discussions and activities.

### **Parent/Guardian Learning Coach Roles and Responsibilities**

- Establish partnership with classroom teachers to ensure a smooth transition with on-campus and distance learning.
- Establish routines and expectations for learning at home.
- Assist your student in locating a space in the home that is ideal for learning.
- Ensure the Chromebook/Tablet is charged and can ideally be left in one place where it is always plugged in.
- Provide a comfortable headset or earbuds for your child that has a mic.
- Monitor communication from teachers and school.
- Monitor completion and submission of class assignments daily.
- Attend online trainings for technology implementation and support.
- Contact teachers or administrators for additional needs and support for student learning.

**MODEL #3, HYBRID LEARNING**

For times when transmission levels are of concern, we will be able to operate school in a hybrid learning model.

**K-8th Grade Sample Hybrid Learning Plan**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Group A on campus	Group B on campus	Group A on campus	Group B on campus	Groups A & B Distance Learning, See "K-8th Grade Distance Learning" schedule above.
Groups A & B 1:00-2:00 Distance Learning				

Group A- Made up of 9 or fewer students per class.

Group B- Made up of 9 or fewer students per class.

For school weeks with a Monday holiday, Group A will meet on Wednesday and Friday to allow for equal in-school time for both groups.

**Sample Preschool Hybrid Learning Plan**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Group A* on campus from 9:00-3:00	Group B* on campus from 9:00-3:00	Group A* on campus from 9:00-3:00	Group B* on campus from 9:00-3:00	Groups A & B, No Class

Group A- Made up of 9 or fewer students per class.

Group B- Made up of 9 or fewer students per class.

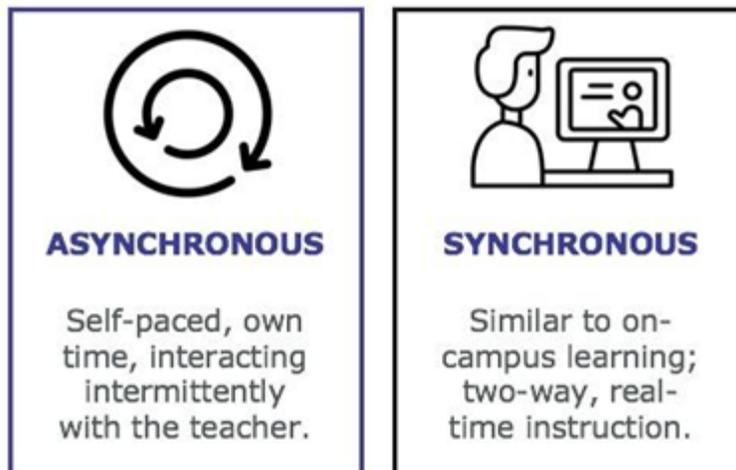
\*Half days will be in session on "off days" during the year if advised to do so by SRHD. A group will meet 9:00-11:15 on Tuesday and Wednesday, and B group will meet 9:00-11:15 on Monday and Thursday.

For school weeks with a Monday holiday, Group A will meet on Wednesday and Friday to allow for equal in-school time for both groups.

## BEST PRACTICES FOR DISTANCE LEARNING

For all of the above Flexible Learning Models, the following best practices for pandemic learning will be implemented.

- **FOUNDATIONS BUILT ON RELATIONSHIPS:** We know that students learn best when they learn from teachers they know are truly invested in them as individuals. Students thrive when they feel safe in their learning environment. All students will participate in relational building activities with their teachers and peers.
- **STUDENT ENGAGEMENT:** We have creative ways to keep students engaged in class. This includes everything from ways to answer questions, movement, celebrating learning risks and achievements and so much more.
- **INSTRUCTION:** Asynchronous and Synchronous instruction will be used depending on subject, concepts, and activities.



- **SCREEN MONITORING:** Teachers in 6th grade and middle school have access to software called iBoss that allows them to monitor what students are doing on their chromebooks. This will enable the teacher to help them get them to the appropriate area, see when a student may be struggling, control what tabs the student has open, and also send private messages to the student if needed.

- **SECURITY:** Google Classroom will provide additional security for students to meet safely through Google Meet without fear of “Zoom Bombing” or similar violations from outside parties. Google Meet has been updated and now allows for more teacher control such as muting and not letting students kick each other out.
- **TECHNOLOGY TO SUPPORT INSTRUCTION:** To provide a better experience for our students, parents, and teachers, we have adopted EdTech Stacks as follows in the grids below. K-8th grade teachers received forty-plus hours of training on these platforms over the summer of 2020 and we will review as needed. Students and parents receive training before school starts and/or through the school year as needed. These are our digital platforms; however, there will be a mix of screen and non-screen activities to provide a balanced system of engagement and learning. When we are learning on campus, far more hands-on learning will take place and technology will be used as a tool rather than the main instructional method.

### **EdTech Stacks**

<b>Kindergarten- Second Grade</b>	<b>Third-Eighth Grade</b>
Google Classroom Seesaw Reading - Raz Kids Online Whiteboard (AWW) Screencastify Math- Eureka ELA- Open Court Online Materials Typing- Edutyping (2nd grade only)	Google Classroom Online Whiteboard (AWW) Screencastify Math- Eureka/Great Minds, Math IXL, Dreambox through SVL, (CK12 for 6th-8th as needed) ELA- 3rd Open Court, 4th-8th CommonLit Typing- Edutyping Science- Digital Purposeful Design (4th-8th) (CK12 6th-8th as needed) HyperDocs Kahoot and Flipgrid

- **ORGANIZATION:** We recommend that all students have an organizational tub/bin/area where all supplies are kept. This will ensure that students can be ready to learn with all that they need. This bin should be large enough to hold math manipulatives that we will provide (in a gallon sized bag), mouse, headset, textbooks (if applicable), paper handouts, folders, etc.
- **GRADING:** Traditional grading as per our Parent Handbook will be implemented.
- **ATTENDANCE:** Teachers will take attendance for each live session per day.
- **PARENT ACCESS:** Parents will have access to their student's grades in Jupiter. Grades will be automatically transferred from Google Classroom to Jupiter Education, our main parent communication platform.
- **ASSESSMENT:** Teachers have additional assessment options to support online assessment.

### **OUTDOOR LEARNING, MASK REQUIREMENTS**

- **Preschool-** No masks are required for outdoor learning.
- **K-8th Grade-** If students are 6ft socially distanced for activities, no masks are optional. If they are in close proximity for activities, masks are required.
- **Preschool-8th Grade Outdoor Learning Snack/Lunch-** Students need to be sitting a minimum of 6ft apart.

### **CO-CURRICULARS and SOUTHSIDE TRADITIONS**

We know how important activities outside the classroom are to the Southside Christian School experience, and we are committed to providing as many meaningful experiences for students as we safely can.

## **QUESTIONS ANSWERED**

### **Q- "What will happen if someone who has been on campus tests positive for COVID-19?"**

A- With our small classes and pod set up, we will be able to determine those who have come in close contact with someone on campus who has been diagnosed. In accordance with the Spokane Regional Health District, we will contact all individuals who may have been exposed. The class and/or pod and teacher(s) that came in contact with the individual will be considered close contacts and need to be quarantined. Our COVID Manager, Amy Link, will contact you with the plan that will need to be followed.

We will have a designated space on campus to isolate anyone who becomes sick during the school day until they can be picked up.

Those who are ill will be required to remain home—both staff and students. (K-8th) Classwork will be available online through Google Classroom and /or Seesaw (dependent upon grade level) for absent students.

### **Q - (Distance Learning) "I am concerned about screen time. How much screen time will my child have each day?"**

A - We understand that screen time is a concern. This will vary for each grade and will be determined by distance learning stamina of engaged learning, age appropriateness, etc. Our teachers are working hard to provide a learning environment that is engaging but gives students breaks as needed. For example, a kindergarten student and 8th grade student will have live sessions that look very different from each other. Even though students may be "on screen" with their teacher and class, they aren't necessarily doing classwork on screen. They may simply be online together in their work and learning, but doing a task that is not on the screen.

### **Q- "I need to pick up my student for an appointment, how will this be handled?"**

A - We want to limit the number of people who come into our building so that we can provide the safest environment for all of our students and staff. If you need to pick up your student, you will come to our front doors and ring the doorbell. Through the intercom system, you will tell us that you need to pick up your student. Our office staff will then reach out to the classroom to get

your student and they will come to the door to meet you. We ask that you please stay outside.

**Q- "Are masks required?"**

A - As per the various health requirements for reopening schools, all students, staff, and visitors must wear a face mask or shield\* while at school. This is a requirement to enter the school building. \*According to the Washington State Department of Health, face shields need to have a drape that extends below the chin, and behind the head. It should have no gap at the forehead.

The Washington State DOH outlines medical exceptions to the above requirement are as follows:

- Those with a disability that prevents them from comfortably wearing or removing a face covering.
- Those with certain respiratory conditions or trouble breathing.
- Those who are deaf or hard of hearing, and those who provide instruction to such people, and use facial and mouth movements as part of communication.
- Those advised by a medical, legal, or behavioral health professional that wearing a face covering may pose a risk to that person.