

COVID-19 School Operations Plans

2021-2022



“Work together to achieve academic excellence while developing strong character in every student...every day.”

A Letter from the Superintendent

Dear Southgate Families,

The Southgate Team is very excited about the 2021-2022 school year! We are very proud of everyone's efforts last year as we faced unprecedented times in our everyday lives. There was no doubt that we faced many obstacles at times, yet we all worked together to make it a successful year for our Little Lions. As we continue to maneuver through the school year, let's always remember to do what is best for our students, staff, and the entire Southgate community. The ultimate goal this year is to have all students in the building receiving face to face instruction while learning and growing together as one family.

As always, the health and safety of our students and staff remain our top priority. The district will adhere to any mandates and continue to evaluate guidance from the CDC and the Kentucky Department of Public Health. The Southgate COVID-19 School Operations Plan is put in place to provide answers to many questions you may have as we educate our students for the 2021-2022 school year.

While a continued return to normal is a main focus, please keep in mind that the pandemic remains a consideration in how we will be able to operate. There is always a possibility that procedures will have to change based on data. We will be sure to communicate any changes to our plan as soon as possible.

We are very excited about watching our students excel while continuing our commitment of promoting Excellence, Character, Growth, and Pride in every student, every day.

Thank you for your constant support of our wonderful community school. We truly do have a special place that is hard to replicate due to the best students, staff, and families in the state of Kentucky. Let's continue to pull together and work side by side to make great things happen for our Little Lions. Small School Big Pride!

Proudly Serving Southgate Schools,

Greg Duty

Superintendent



Frequently Asked Questions:

When does the 2nd quarter of school start?

The 2nd quarter of school for students in P-8 will begin on Monday, October 18.

Will my child attend in person or online?

Students will receive instruction by attending school IN PERSON. Students will attend school for face-to-face instruction on Monday-Friday. School starts at 8AM, and the school day concludes at 3PM. Just a friendly reminder that students in K-8 will be dismissed on Thursdays at 2PM beginning August 26. Preschool students will dismiss at their normal times (AM group – 11AM; PM group – 3PM).

Where can I find the district calendar?

You can find the 21-22 academic calendar on our website at www.southgate.kyschools.us - it is located under the calendar tab.

Does my child have to be vaccinated against COVID before attending school?

The district is not mandating the COVID vaccination for any students or adults. We understand and respect that this is an individual/family choice, but it is important to note that students/staff who are vaccinated do not have to quarantine unless they become symptomatic. We encourage anyone with vaccination questions to contact their health provider.

Will masks be required?

Currently, masks will be required for all individuals while inside the school building regardless of vaccination status. The district will continue to assess the school and county data on a constant basis to determine our stance on universal mask wearing. Mask breaks will be included in all student's daily schedules.

Do I need to supply my child with a mask?

The school district will continue to have some masks available for students. However, we encourage our students to come to school with a mask prior to entering the school building.

Will my child have access to a school locker?

Lockers will not be used. Students will keep their book bag with them.



I drop my child off at school. What will this look like?

While students will not be screened prior to entry, you must wait until 7:40 or later to drop your child off at their designated location. Please wait until a staff member is at the door to allow students to enter. Once again, please keep your child home if they are presenting symptoms consistent with COVID.

- Students in kindergarten and middle school (5th-8th) will use the main entrance by the office.
- Students in first, second, third and fourth grades will use the media center entrance under the red awning.
- Preschool students will use the center entrance.

What will dismissal look like and where will my child(ren) exit the building?

Students will exit the building at designated locations to eliminate large crowds.

- Students in kindergarten will exit from the main entrance (where they entered).
- Students in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 will exit from the ramp exit near the courtyard.
- Students in grades 1 and 2 will exit from the media center (where they entered).
- Preschool students will exit at the center of the school building (where they entered).

Will my child eat in the cafeteria?

Breakfast will be grab and go and eaten in the classrooms for grades 1-8. Preschool and kindergarten will eat breakfast in the cafeteria. Hot and cold options will be available. Lunch will be served in the cafeteria for all students excluding 5th and 8th grades who will eat in the classroom due to square footage limitations. We will continue to encourage and promote handwashing/sanitizing before and after eating.

Will there be extra-curricular activities, such as sport seasons, fieldtrips, or clubs?

Yes, as long as there are no statewide mandatory shutdowns and community, and school data continue to show it is safe to have the activities.

Will the school still be contact tracing, and could my child have to quarantine if they have been exposed?

The district will consistently monitor data, work with our local health department, and make decisions accordingly. It is always a possibility that students could be asked to quarantine. We will work directly with students and families if this is the case. Seating charts will be maintained for contact tracing.



Will the school be offering the Test to Stay Program for students?

The district has partnered with Ethos Laboratories (Newport, KY) to create a COVID-19 testing program that will ensure a safe return to school. This is a completely voluntary program that is supported by the State so there is no cost to you or the school district. The Test to Stay Program will begin on Monday, September 20. We politely request that you enroll your children in this program to help accomplish the following goals for a successful school year:

1. Safe in person learning environment for the entire school year
2. Minimize the need to quarantine children at home for extended periods of time
3. Minimize absentee days due to COVID-19 for both teachers and students

By participating in this program, you will help us achieve our goals and keep our kids safe for in person learning throughout the year. Below is the link for you to enroll your children in this program with the instructions attached.

www.ethosbacktoschool.com

Please take time to create an account and register your child. Should you choose to participate, you will have the ability to unenroll your child from the program at any time. Active enrollment in the program will mean that your child is tested for five days when identified as a close contact at school. Daily testing will occur in a drive through format on the Southgate School campus with results being delivered in approximately 15-20 minutes. If your child test negative then he/she will be permitted to attend school on that particular day. By opting into this opportunity, you are choosing to participate in the "test to stay" program that is made available through the partnership between Southgate Schools and Ethos Laboratories. If your child is not part of this program, they would not be eligible for testing, and would be likely be required to quarantine at home for the State's recommended period of time.

Will the building be clean and sanitized?

Our custodians work hard to keep our school building clean each year. We will continue to utilize "electrostatic" spraying machines to allow for intense cleaning and sanitizing. Classrooms will continue to utilize additional mitigation to keep surfaces clean.

Will I be allowed to volunteer at the school?

We love our volunteers and appreciate all they do to support our students and staff. We will be limiting the number of visitors in our schools so you will need to work directly with the school before volunteering.

Will parent meetings, such as ARC meetings, be in person?

Yes, we will begin hosting meetings in person, but an online format will be available if needed.



How will my child receive health care at school?

The district employs a full-time nurse who will provide health care to students. Sharyl Iden, RN will work with students for routine medical attention and in the event of an emergency. We will continue to isolate sick students and will contact families accordingly.

Parents, please be attentive to the daily health of your children and ensure they are healthy enough to attend school each day. Do not send your child to school if they show symptoms of illness that cannot be attributed to seasonal allergies, including but not limited to the following: fever, cough, vomiting, diarrhea, or rash. We also request that all of your child's required immunizations are up to date.

What will happen if someone tests positive for COVID-19?

We appreciate the support from our families in communicating with us when someone in the household tests positive and ask you to continue notifying us if there is a confirmed case of COVID-19. We will collaborate with local health officials to determine appropriate measures if a student or staff member tests positive.

Will these procedures be in place all year?

Unfortunately, the pandemic continues to remain a fluid situation and the district may have to make decisions based on current data. It is our goal to be in school all year with limited disruptions and remain as normal as possible throughout the year.

Will students practice social distancing?

We recommend distancing of 3 feet for students and 6 feet for staff to students, when possible, *without changing the schedule or physical use of space in the school*. An example is to try to spread desks out as far as possible in each class. This recommendation should not prevent student group work, other instructional activities, having students at cap size in classes or eating and socialization during lunch. Seating charts will be maintained for contact tracing.

Is there a school supply list?

Yes, all students have a supply list posted on the district website.



How Can Families Assist with the 21-22 School Year?

- ◆ Keep in mind that while many things will be transitioning back to normal, and we hope they stay that way, there may be times we have to implement procedures based on data in our school or community. Please stay patient, positive, flexible and supportive throughout the year. We all want to work together to make sure it is a great year for our students.
- ◆ Please communicate with us with any questions, concerns or issues. We will also communicate any changes in procedures so continue to check our website, Facebook and Twitter accounts. Also, make sure we have your correct phone numbers in Infinite Campus so you will receive any All-Call notices.
- ◆ Continue to encourage healthy hygiene habits and self-care. If your child isn't feeling well and you aren't able to determine the reason, please keep your child home and follow up with your primary care physician.
- ◆ Remind students of our school expectations and the importance of being Respectful, Responsible, and Safe!
- ◆ And stating this one more time.....Keep the lines of communication open with school staff. We strive for a positive experience for all students and that is best achieved when staff and families work together. Please reach out to us if your child needs assistance with their emotional, social, or academic progress.



District Personnel

Southgate Independent School District Board of Education

Diane Hatfield, Chairperson
Jim Specht, Vice Chairperson
Drue Miller, Board Member
Jeff "Jay" Paul, Board Member
William "BJ" Shockney, Board Member

ADMINISTRATION

Greg Duty, Superintendent
Julie Rubemeyer, Principal
Marlene Jones, Director of Special Education and Preschool

SUPPORT STAFF

Betty Ginn, School Secretary
Jennifer Weber, School Counselor
Shannon Hansman, Instructional Coach
Mark Goetz, Director of Pupil Personnel (DPP)
Sharyl Iden, RN & District Technology Coordinator
Shiloh Schweitzer, Family Resource Center Assistant Coordinator

Site-Based Decision Making Council

Julie Rubemeyer, Chairperson
Deanna Landrum, Vice Chairperson
Kendra Abner, Teacher
Tammy McAtee, Teacher
Rebecca Rossiter, Teacher
Mabinita Diagana, Parent
Carrie Weber, Parent

Human Resources / Payroll

Dayton Independent School District

Glenda Smith – Human Resource and Payroll Clerk
Trish Gosney – Finance Officer and Accounts Payable