

SPRUCE MOUNTAIN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Regional School Unit No. 73



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August 20, 2021

Dear Spruce Mountain Families,

As we prepare for a school year that will continue to be shaped by Covid-19, I want to share with you what has been planned for Spruce Mountain Middle School to date. Please understand that our plan is subject to change, as guidelines from the CDC change; indeed, flexibility will be needed by all, as we progress with the reopening of our school. Our goal has been to find the safest possible way to return students to the building, 5 days per week. Please consider the following:

Upon Arrival:

- Masks must be worn on the bus and while at school, for the foreseeable future.
- Continue to complete a health screening of your child every day, before sending them to school. If your child has Covid-like symptoms, please do not send them to school; rather, seek guidance from your child's PCP, and communicate with the main office.
- This year, students may have two bus stops. For instance, you now have the flexibility to determine if your child will be picked up at home, but dropped off at daycare, or vice versa. However, bus passes will not be issued. Buses will return to making one run in the morning and afternoon. Like they have in the past, students will have an assigned seat. Masks will be required on the bus. Students who cannot follow this most crucial request will not be permitted to ride the bus; parents will be required to transport their child.
- Buses will pull up to the main entrance of SMMS. The bus driver will dismiss students from the bus. Students will remain masked and stay 3 feet apart. 6th graders will depart the bus and turn right, entering the building through Door #1. They will travel directly to their homeroom. 7th graders will enter the building through the main entrance, Door #2, and travel directly to their homeroom. 8th graders will depart the bus and turn left, entering the building through Door #3. They will travel directly to their homeroom.
- Walkers and parent drop-offs will enter the building, proceeding through their assigned, grade-level door. Students **WILL NOT BE ALLOWED** to be dropped off until 7:30 AM. We are asking you to use the parking lot down by the Community Building during drop-off and pick-up times. This is the same parking procedure used last year (as a reminder for those parents who had students at SMMS). Should a parent arrive before 7:30AM, please keep your child in the vehicle until 7:30 AM. At that time, students are to use the sidewalk and enter the building through their grade level door. To the best of their ability, students will stay 3 feet apart.
- Students who arrive late, will need to buzz in through the main entrance, Door #2. They will need to check in at the office window and then proceed directly to their homeroom.

Throughout the School Day:

- Upon entering/exiting the bus, building, and classrooms, students need to utilize the provided hand sanitizing stations, and "pump in" and "pump out."
- At this time, band, chorus, and other extracurricular activities will be offered, as in the past.
- Students will be able to use lockers this year and we have had combination locks installed. Backpacks, coats, and cell phones will be secured within your child's locker daily.

- Breakfast will be available to all students, for free, in the cafeteria. Students will pick up their breakfast in the cafeteria between 7:30-7:50, and eat in their homeroom.
- Lunch will be served in the cafeteria, to all students, free of charge. At this time, we are not required to distance students 6 feet while they eat, but we will adjust as necessary, per CDC guidelines.
- Water fountains have been turned off, but we have 3 water filling stations available for use throughout the building. Therefore, water bottles will be necessary for drinking water. We were able to allocate grant money we received to the purchase of water bottles; each student will receive a water bottle on the first day of school. Students' names should be written on the bottle.
- The office across from the nurse's room will be used as an isolation room. If you are called because your child is not feeling well, they will wait in the isolation room for a family member to pick them up; if you receive such a call from the school, the expectation is for your child to be picked up ASAP.

Dismissal:

- Vehicle pick-ups and walkers will be dismissed following the second wave of buses. If you are dropping off or picking up your child, you will use the parking lot down by the Community Building. This is the same parking procedure used last year (as a reminder for those parents who had students at SMMS).
- No parents or visitors will be allowed in the building, except for pre-scheduled meetings. If you need to pick up your child during the school day, we expect you to call the office (207-897-4319) when you arrive, and to wait in the vestibule area, where visual contact can be made by the office.

Please Note:

- Chromebooks will be issued to all students in the first week or two of school, by their homeroom teacher. Students may bring their device home each night, but we expect students to return to school with them each day, fully charged.
- Students will receive their schedule on the opening day of school, from their homeroom teacher. All students received a letter from the school at the start of summer vacation indicating their assigned community and homeroom teacher.
- Supply lists for each SMMS community have been posted on the district Facebook website.

In closing, many staff members have collaborated this summer to help plan for the return for our students. Even though great efforts have been made to consider every angle of returning to school 5 days per week, we know our best laid plans are subject to change. For this reason, the SMMS staff and I thank you in advance for your flexibility during this time. I would encourage you to call the main office if you have questions or concerns. Please know that we have your child's best interest at heart, and we are all excited to welcome them to SMMS on September 1st.

Respectfully,



Carolyn Luce | Principal