

Dear Warrior Parents,

We appreciate your continued patience, flexibility, and support as we continue to navigate opening our school doors on Aug. 5th. Our faculty and staff are excited to return to OCHS and welcome our students. As we have made plans to re-open on August 5, I would like to remind you that not only am I your child's principal but I am also a parent of three OCS students and a spouse of an OCMS teacher. Your OCHS faculty and staff have prepared to open our doors in the healthiest and safest manner. That being said, no decisions have been made lightly. Please know that our school and district are taking a number of steps to foster a safe, positive, and welcoming environment. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Details on the district's School Reopening Plan can be found [here](#). Below are more details from the school level:

Master Schedule

OCHS is on a 4 x 4 hybrid, block schedule. The majority of our students have four semester-long classes per day and some of our classes are on an A/B schedule and in a year-long format. We have streamlined the master schedule to eliminate unnecessary transitions throughout the school day. Our lunch schedule has also been redesigned to reduce the number of students at lunch at a given time. Additionally, students will have more seating options to spread out and social distance.

Masks

Our school will strive to foster a culture of mask-wearing. Staff will model this behavior for our students. Our entire system is being intentional with a "Mask Up, Oconee" campaign and we will reinforce this in our school. With that being said, we will not tolerate any bullying or harassment about the wearing or not wearing of masks.



Staff is required to wear face masks when social distancing cannot be maintained. Students are strongly encouraged to wear face masks - especially during transition times (in hallways, restrooms, etc).

Social Distancing

Social distancing will be done to the greatest extent possible. Oversized furniture has been removed from classrooms and flexible seating has been removed or reconfigured as needed. All desks will face the same direction. Directional arrows are in the hallways to guide traffic, as congregating in hallways will not be allowed. Social distancing markers are present in a number of areas, as well as signage to encourage distancing.

Cafeteria

Student seating will be reduced in the cafeteria so that additional distance can be placed in between students. Students will have options to eat outside in secured areas as well as additional locations inside the school building. This will also help reduce numbers in the cafeteria. In addition, plexiglass will be utilized in the cafeteria serving lines. Serving lines have been denoted on the floor with six-foot spacing makers on the floor. Visitors cannot be accommodated in the cafeteria at this time. Please do not drop off outside food for our students.

Communication

If a staff member or student tests positive for COVID-19, the following will occur in this order:

- Individuals who meet the Georgia Department of Public Health's Contact Tracing Guidelines will be contacted by phone as soon as the school is made aware of the positive test. DPH's definition of those who meet contact tracing guidelines is that: they have been less than 6 feet apart for 15 or more minutes beginning 2 days before the person tested positive or had symptoms.
- Individuals who are in class (or ride on the bus) with the COVID-19 person will receive a separate email.
- An email also will be shared with our school community.

Extracurricular Activities

The continuation of athletics is determined in large part by the [Georgia High School Association \(GHSA\)](#). We plan to hold extracurricular activities - sports or otherwise - in accordance with local, state, and federal guidance.

Illness at School

Individuals exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms will be sent home. If students need to wait for a parent to pick them up, they will wait in a separate area.

Meet the Teacher

We look forward to seeing you and your child at Meet the Teacher. (*Teacher and course virtual introductions will be linked to individual teacher's itslearning pages.*) Below is the schedule for Meet the Teach on Monday, Aug. 3rd:

7th-12th Grade

Monday, August 3

Staggered by Student Last Names

A-I: 10:30-11:30 a.m.

J-Q: 1-2 p.m.

R-Z: 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Before coming to meet the teacher, please have your student log into PowerSchool to print out a copy or take a picture of his/her schedule. OCHS will not hand out hard copies of schedules during Meet the Teacher. If you are interested in speaking with your child's teacher by phone, please reach out to them via email or call 706-769-6655. We look forward to seeing you on Aug. 3rd.

Quarantining

This information is also part of the district's reopening plan.

Based on the Georgia Department of Public Health Guidelines, the protocol is as follows:

Symptomatic persons with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 may return to work or school after all of the following have occurred:

- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared
- At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery, defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications
- Improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath)

Asymptomatic persons with confirmed COVID-19 may return to work or school after:

- At least 10 days have passed since the positive laboratory test (and the person remains asymptomatic)

Asymptomatic persons who have a known exposure to an individual with a confirmed case of COVID-19 without appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), in close contact as defined above, may return to work after:

- A 14-day home quarantine period has ended

This means that if a parent has COVID-19, the child must be quarantined at home for 14 days. Students will not be able to transition to an online model unless it is at the semester point because of the way the online courses are structured. Students will be able to make up all missed work.

Safety Protocols

Many of these have been shared from the district level:

- Staff, students, and essential visitors are agreeing that by virtue of coming to school, they:
 - Do not have a fever above 100.3 and do not have any symptoms of illness
 - Have not been in close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 in the last 14 days
 - Have not been diagnosed with COVID-19 and should be quarantining per DPH guidelines
- No school supplies will be shared.
- Every classroom will have a hand sanitizer station. Hand sanitizer stations will also be in common areas of the school.
- A washable mask will be provided to all staff and students.
- All staff will be required to wear masks when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain.
- Students will also be encouraged to wear masks.
- All bus riders will be required to wear masks.
- Bus riders will be assigned seats on buses.
- Social distancing will occur when possible.
- Enhanced hand-washing and sanitizing protocols will be in place.
- School buildings will be thoroughly cleaned on a daily basis.
- Student numbers will be reduced in the cafeteria during breakfast/lunch.
- Outside visitors will be limited and will be required to have their temperatures taken and answer a series of questions regarding potential COVID-19 exposure.
- Water fountains will not be operational. However, water filling stations or water fountains designated as filling stations will be available for students to refill water bottles.
- Plexiglass will be used in front offices where there is not already a clear partition in place between staff and visitors. In addition, plexiglass will be utilized in the cafeteria serving lines.
- Transitions will be minimized.
- At drop-off, students will go straight to their designated area. There will be no hallway congregating before, during, or after school.
- Desks will be assigned within classrooms. Class transitions will occur at all levels, with schools utilizing a variety of disease mitigation measures.

- Outside visitors will be limited and will be required to have their temperatures taken and answer a series of questions regarding potential COVID-19 exposure.
- No field trips will occur during the first nine weeks.

Transitions

- Arrival

Students will report to designated locations upon arrival to allow for physical distance between students as they wait to report to their first block. All students will be dismissed to their first block class at 7:50 a.m.

- Between Classes

Transitions will occur throughout the school day with mitigation strategies in place such as designated traffic patterns and supervision to address any stagnate gathering.

- Dismissal

Students will be dismissed in a staggered manner with mitigation strategies in place such as designated traffic patterns and supervision to address any stagnate gathering. Physical distancing will be enforced and students will be strongly encouraged to wear masks when they cannot socially distance.

Visitors

- Only essential visitors will be allowed in school at this time. Essential visitors are defined as follows: parents, mentors, and student teachers.
- Visitors will be required to have their temperatures taken and answer a series of questions regarding potential COVID-19 exposure.
- Essential visitors are agreeing that by virtue of entering a school, they:
 - Do not have a fever above 100.3 and do not have any symptoms of illness
 - Have not been in close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 in the last 14 days
 - Have not been diagnosed with COVID-19 and should be quarantining per DPH guidelines
- No visitors can be accommodated during lunch at this time. Please do not bring outside food into students during the lunch periods.

Again, thank you for your grace during this time. As always, if you have questions or concerns, please contact me.

Go Warriors!

We are One,

Kevin Yancey, Principal
Oconee County High School