

RETURN TO LEARNING

Fall 2020

Auburn City Schools





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With appreciation for the engagement of our students, staff, school families, and community stakeholders, Auburn City Schools courageously steps forward into the 2020-2021 school year. With focus on the health, safety, and wellness of all community members, Auburn City Schools embraces our mission, to ensure that each student realizes and nurtures their own unique talents and intellectual gifts to achieve personal aspirations while admirably contributing to the greater good.

Every great challenge is an opportunity for renewal and growth. With innovative approaches to teaching and learning, new measures of safety and precaution, and rapidly changing circumstances in our state, nation, and world, the COVID-19 pandemic forces all of us to adapt. It is expected that Auburn City Schools will face obstacles in the year ahead; it is our goal to demonstrate flexibility and acclimate to every extent possible. It is in advance of our hurdles that we thank you for the same.

School and system administrators are working closely with The Alabama State Department of Education and receiving guidance from The Alabama Department of Public Health. In addition, there is partnership with local healthcare officials, community leaders, and government agencies. Importantly, Auburn City Schools regards highly the alliance of parents and guardians. Monitoring student health, to include daily screening, is an essential element of our return to school. It is imperative that we all work together to ensure the safety of our students and schools.

With much respect for the decision of selecting a learning environment most suitable for each student and family, Auburn City Schools presents **Return to Learning Fall 2020**. We wholeheartedly embrace the opportunity to scaffold the educational journey of each student in the year ahead utilizing remote and traditional learning environments.

The creativity and collective efficacy of our teaching team positions Auburn City Schools to successfully navigate the 2020-2021 school year. The leadership of our Board of Education, stewardship of our school administrators, and dedicated service of our support staff advances Auburn City Schools in actualization. An organization deeply connected to the members of this community, Auburn City Schools affirms our commitment to students, parents, guardians and families and stands resolute in joining together to launch, learn, adjust, and succeed in the school year ahead.

With my respect and gratitude,

Cristen Herring

Superintendent
Auburn City Schools



TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Instructional Options</u>	4
<u>Remote Learning Platform</u>	5
<u>Remote Learning Content</u>	6
<u>Remote Learning Delivery</u>	7
<u>Remote Learning: Other Considerations</u>	8
<u>Remote Learning: Weeks 0-1</u>	9
<u>Traditional Learning: Home Preparedness</u>	10
<u>Traditional Learning: Face Coverings</u>	11-12
<u>Traditional Learning: Handwashing and Sanitizing</u>	13
<u>Traditional Learning: Physical Distancing</u>	14
<u>Traditional Learning: Personal Protective Equipment</u>	15
<u>Traditional Learning: Weeks 0-1</u>	16
<u>Traditional Learning: Covid-19 Diagnosis or Exposure</u>	17
<u>Traditional Learning During Quarantine</u>	18
<u>Transportation</u>	19-20
<u>School Operations</u>	21
<u>Sanitizing and Cleaning</u>	22
<u>Child Nutrition Program</u>	23
<u>Assessments</u>	24
<u>Technology Resources</u>	25
<u>Resources</u>	26
<u>Learning Intent Survey</u>	27

INSTRUCTIONAL MODELS

Students/families have two options of instructional learning environments for Fall 2020—a Traditional Learning and a Remote Learning. All students, regardless of the option selected are subject to the following:

Register for school using the online registration portal for the school in which the student is zoned (elementary) or for the secondary school with the grade level in which the student will be enrolled.

Follow the academic calendar for 2020-2021 posted on the Auburn City Schools website. [Click here](#) to view the calendar.

Complete all assessments required by the Alabama State Department of Education. See Assessment section for a complete list of fall assessments.

Demonstrate mastery of standards described in the Alabama Courses of Study for the grade and/or subject in which the student is enrolled at the pacing and rigor required to complete the course content.

Receive feedback at the mid-quarter and end-of-quarter for grades K-2 and receive grades at the end of each quarter for grades 3-12.

Be eligible for participation in after-school events.

Students may transition from Traditional to Remote any time during the semester, but may transition from Remote to Traditional only in January. Intent form for change in spring semester will be provided in late fall.

REMOTE LEARNING PLATFORM

Students must have access to a computer device (not a phone) and high-speed internet in order to participate in Auburn Remote Learning. All students in grades 7-12 are eligible to receive an iPad. Families who indicate on the survey that they are without device and internet will be contacted directly by a representative of the school system to discuss possible options for acquiring necessary equipment. Families who receive devices from the school must sign and submit the [iPad Student and Parent Agreement Form](#).

Students enrolled in Remote Learning are assigned coursework that comes completely from a digital platform and is facilitated by instructors.

- The digital content for Grades K-7 is SchoolsPLP and will be facilitated by Auburn City Schools teachers in both synchronous and asynchronous meetings.
The digital content for Grades 8-12 is ACCESS and will be facilitated by teachers outside of Auburn City Schools
- The Learning Management Platform for all grades K-12 in Remote Learning is Schoology.

Students and families should expect to be engaged in daily online learning with the standards of pacing and rigor used in the traditional model.

Attendance for Auburn Remote Learning is determined by participation in daily online learning events and weekly assignments.

Students enrolled in Remote Learning will remain in Remote Learning for the entire first semester. A form for the second semester will be distributed late fall in which families can communicate their intent to either remain in Remote Learning or transfer to Traditional Learning.

REMOTE LEARNING CONTENT

Courses offered in Remote Learning will be the same as those offered in Traditional Learning as much as possible.

Grades K-5

English Language Arts

Mathematics

Social Studies

Science

Physical Education

Art

Music (Not Kindergarten)

Grades 6-7

English Language Arts

Mathematics

Social Studies

Science

Physical Education

At least one additional
elective/exploratory that could
include Art, Music, or Coding

Grades 8-12

As much as possible, the subjects for which a student registered for the fall semester will be the subjects included in Remote Learning.

However, all courses and electives are not available through ACCESS, including some Career Technical courses and advanced courses. Families will be contacted by school counselors about solutions for elective courses that are not offered through ACCESS.

A complete list of courses available through [ACCESS is available at this link.](#)

Schedules will be developed with attention to required prerequisites, course sequence and graduation requirements.

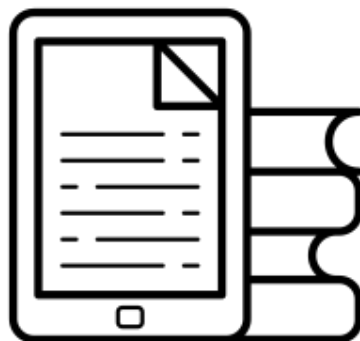
REMOTE LEARNING DELIVERY

Remote learning requires daily interaction with content. Because multiple academic areas are required daily, the instruction may be delivered throughout the day in grades K-7. Students in grades 8-12 will be able to access all content at any time during the day, but daily access is required to maintain pacing requirements for learning.

The following daily online time requirements, recommended by the Alabama State Department of Education, will be used as guidelines for teachers in the Remote Learning model. Additional off-line work will be required each day to complete assignments.

Grade Level	Time Requirement
Kindergarten	30-90 minutes per day
First and Second Grades	45-90 minutes per day
Third – Fifth Grades	1 – 3 hours per day
Sixth – Eighth Grades	15-30 minutes per class per day
Ninth – Twelfth Grades	20-45 minutes per class per day

Attendance for Auburn Remote Learning is determined by participation and engagement in online learning events and daily and weekly assignments. For students with an IEP, an amendment to the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) may be written based on the individual needs of the student as a learner in a remote setting.



REMOTE LEARNING: OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

For students with an IEP, an amendment to the IEP may be written based on the individual needs of the student as a learner in a remote setting. All services described in the IEP will be provided.

Elementary students who are eligible for Venture Pull-Out will receive weekly enrichment assignments from Venture Pull-Out teachers.

Remote Learning students may participate in extra-curricular activities including athletics.

Students who participate on teams or groups for which there is a coordinating class during the day on campus may come to school for that class.

Homeschool students who are athletes may select the Remote Learning option for their required course. [Click here for information](#) about participation in Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA) sanctioned sports by non-traditional students.



REMOTE LEARNING: WEEKS 0-1

iPad Pickup for students in grades 7-12 will be scheduled August 4-7.

Families in grades K-6 who need devices will receive iPads August 4-7.

Families who need Internet access will be contacted by district personnel.

Students in Grades K-7 will participate in Virtual Meet the Teacher August 4-7. Video and/or WebEx meeting times will be communicated by the school.

A parent orientation session for all students in Remote Learning (Grades K-12) will be scheduled August 4-7. This orientation session will be conducted virtually. The topics of the orientation session will include Schoology, attendance, grades, and daily schedules.

Students in grades K-7 will receive a virtual orientation session on August 10 that covers access to and navigation of Schoology, attendance, grades, and daily schedules.

Students in grades 8-12 will receive a virtual orientation session on August 10 that covers access to and navigation of Schoology, attendance, grades, and daily schedules.

TRADITIONAL LEARNING: HOME PREPAREDNESS

The first line of defense for preventing the spread of infection in our schools is the home defense. Parents and families should be familiar with the symptoms associated with infection and keep students at home if any of these symptoms are evident. These symptoms include:



Fever of 100.4, especially first thing in the morning



Cough, runny nose, or sinus congestion



Trouble breathing or persistent pain or pressure in the chest



Abdominal pain or stomach ache; Diarrhea or vomiting



Body aches



New loss of taste or smell

Honest communication between schools and families is essential. If in doubt, please keep students at home.

If a member of the household is COVID-19 positive, students in the household are required to complete a 10-14 day quarantine and follow protocols for return to school.

TRADITIONAL LEARNING: FACE COVERINGS

The greatest risk for infection occurs when people are in close contact with someone with a confirmed positive case. Close contact is defined as being within approximately 6 feet of a confirmed COVID-19 case for a total of 15 minutes or longer or having direct contact with infectious secretions of COVID-19 by a confirmed COVID-19 case.

There are three practical guidelines that lower the risks of close contact, the first of which is the use of face coverings.

COVID-19 spreads mainly from person to person through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, talks, or raises their voice (e.g., while shouting, chanting, or singing). These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. Recent studies show that a significant portion of individuals with COVID-19 lack symptoms (are “asymptomatic”) and that even those who eventually develop symptoms (are “pre-symptomatic”) can transmit the virus to others before showing symptoms.

To reduce the spread of COVID-19, CDC recommends that people wear cloth face coverings in public settings when around people outside of their household, especially when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain.

[About Cloth Face Coverings](#)

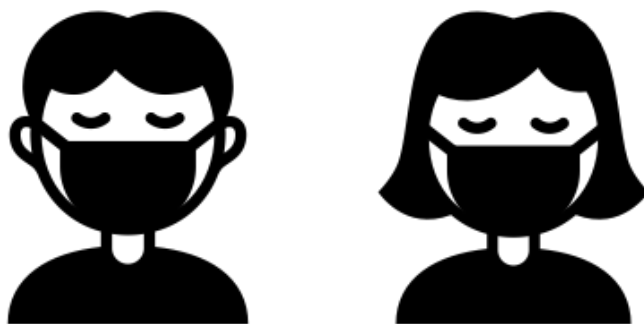
TRADITIONAL LEARNING: FACE COVERINGS

ACS Employees

According to the June 30th Order of the State Health Officer, “Each employee [of an educational institution] shall, to the greatest extent practical 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.” Based on this order, all staff will wear face coverings in the circumstances described in the order, including masks and/or face shields.

ACS Students

Students in Auburn City Schools will be required to wear masks, as feasible. Students attending school on campus will be provided a reusable, washable face cover at the beginning of the school year. Parents/guardians are asked to provide additional masks, as needed. Disposable masks will be available for incidental use but should be reserved for an emergency in which the provided or personal mask is not available. Students should be practiced and prepared in managing their mask independently. The wearing of masks by students during the school day will follow practical guidelines that are appropriate for the student’s health needs and developmental stage.



TRADITIONAL LEARNING: HANDWASHING AND SANITIZING

The greatest risk for infection occurs when people are in close contact with someone with a confirmed positive case. Close contact is defined as being within approximately 6 feet of a confirmed COVID-19 case for a total of 15 minutes or longer or having direct contact with infectious secretions of COVID-19 by a confirmed COVID-19 case.

There are three practical guidelines that lower the risks of close contact, the second of which is handwashing and sanitizing.

Custodial staff will sanitize doorknobs and handles routinely with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registered disinfectant.

Classroom teachers will be provided with bottles of hand sanitizers and surface-cleaning sanitizers that will be refilled as needed throughout the semester as long as supplies are available.

Students will be encouraged to wash hands and/or sanitize regularly throughout the day, especially before and after transitions to different parts of the building.



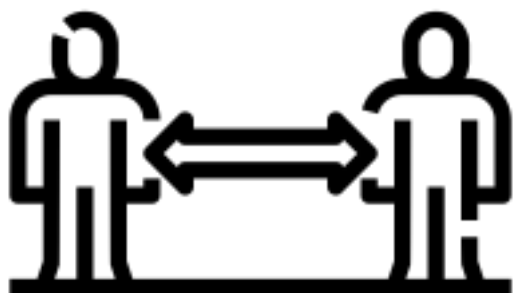
TRADITIONAL LEARNING: PHYSICAL DISTANCING

The greatest risk for infection occurs when people are in close contact with someone with a confirmed positive case. Close contact is defined as being within approximately 6 feet of a confirmed COVID-19 case for a total of 15 minutes or longer or having direct contact with infectious secretions of COVID-19 by a confirmed COVID-19 case.

There are three practical guidelines that lower the risks of close contact, the third of which is physical distancing. Complete physical distancing is impossible to achieve during the school day, elevating the importance of the first two guidelines.

As much as is feasible, physical distancing will be enforced. Excess classroom furniture will be removed to allow for more spacing between desks. As much as possible, tables will be replaced by desks which will all be oriented forward facing 3-6 feet apart. [Click this link](#) for information about physical distancing from the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Entry to school routines will change to decrease large group congregations of students. Travel routes inside and outside the buildings will be changed to decrease or eliminate contact with larger groups. Dismissals will be staggered.

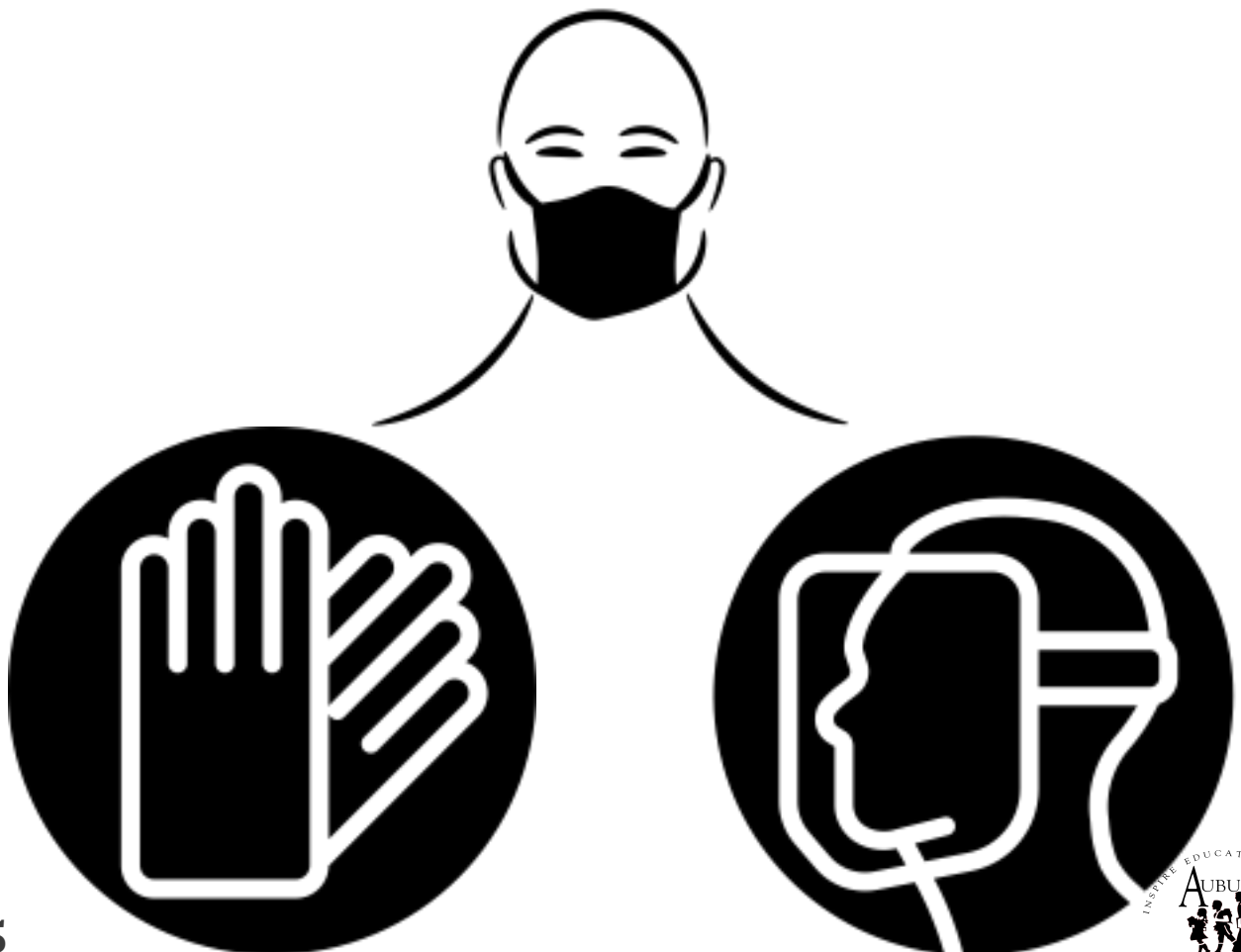


TRADITIONAL LEARNING: PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Auburn City Schools has purchased washable, reusable cloth masks with adjustable straps for each student and staff member. Students may wear their own face masks as long as those masks are cloth and cover the nose and mouth. Designs or logos on face masks must meet student dress code regulations. See page 22 of the [Student and Parent Handbook](#) for specific information about dress code.

Face shields and gloves have been purchased for teacher and staff use. According to the CDC, face shields are not a substitute for cloth face coverings. Face shields will be used by teachers when it is important for students to see the teacher's mouth.

A supply of disposable masks for incidental use has been ordered.



TRADITIONAL LEARNING: WEEKS 0-1

There will be no face-to-face Meet the Teacher or Open House. These meetings will be held virtually and coordinated by individual schools the week of August 4-7.

Students in grades 7-12 will receive iPads August 10-14.

During the first week of school, students will be oriented in the use and access of the Learning Management Platform that will be used in case of future quarantine or school closure.

A regular school schedule will be followed beginning August 10 in all schools.



TRADITIONAL LEARNING: COVID-19 DIAGNOSIS

Auburn City Schools will follow the guidance of local, state, and national health professionals and adopt a symptom-based strategy that recommends a 10-14 day quarantine period for persons both exposed to COVID-19 through close contact or for persons with a positive test. The recommendations are subject to change as new information is gathered.

COVID-19 Positive Diagnosis

A student or staff member with a positive COVID-19 diagnosis will be subject to a 10-14 day quarantine and will follow the guidance of their healthcare provider and the Alabama Department of Public Health.

COVID-19 Positive Exposure

If a student or faculty member is diagnosed positive for COVID-19, the parents or guardians of any student with risk of infection due to close contact will be notified. Parents and guardians will be advised to contact the student's healthcare provider to be assessed and given further directives.

A student or staff member with positive exposure will need to complete a 10-14 day quarantine measured from the date of last exposure.

Return to School

For both a positive diagnosis and a positive exposure, the parent/guardian must provide to ACS in writing one of the following statements about the student from their healthcare provider:

The student has a negative COVID-19 test and is symptom free at the completion of the 10-14-day quarantine, OR

The student has been symptom free during the 10-14-day quarantine.

TRADITIONAL LEARNING DURING QUARANTINE

There may be circumstance in which students in traditional learning are mandated through quarantine to leave the traditional school setting and receive all content online.

Students during quarantine will continue to receive assignments from classroom teachers using an online learning management system (for example, Schoology). In the case of a large group quarantine or a school closure, students will engage in fully online learning with the Traditional Learning classroom teacher when possible.

The rigor and pace of learning will continue through times of quarantine. Students who are ill or symptomatic during quarantine will receive extended time to complete assignments.

If a positive case has been identified in school, Auburn City Schools will follow CDC recommendations for cleaning and disinfecting.

Auburn City Schools will monitor positive cases of COVID-19 and stay in contact with the Alabama Department of Public Health Epidemiology Department. We will follow their recommendations for classroom, school or district closure.

Distance learning will begin on the third school day after classroom closure to allow for preparation and transition.

TRANSPORTATION

School bus transportation operations will proceed normally unless otherwise notified by Auburn City Schools. Due to COVID-19, parents/guardians are encouraged to transport students by private vehicle, if possible.

Any modifications to the transportation plan for students with an IEP require approval and should be reflected in the IEP.

Bus Drivers

Drivers will spray common touch points (seats, aisle flooring, floors between seats, handrails, entrance doors, and driver controls inside the bus) with a disinfectant prior to the start of a route, between routes and immediately following the completion of a route.

Bus drivers and aides will wear face masks and/or eye glasses or safety goggles.

Before Entering the Bus

Communication will be sent home to parents of bus riders emphasizing their responsibility to check temperatures and screen before placing students on the bus.

Parents/guardians should check for COVID-19 related symptoms daily. If any symptoms exist, do not let your child come to school.

Students should socially distance themselves at bus stops.



TRANSPORTATION, CONTINUED

While On the Bus

Students are required to wear masks on buses.

Students will apply hand sanitizer as they enter the bus. A dispenser of hand sanitizer will be mounted and available.

The first two seats behind the bus driver and the first seat of the passenger row will remain empty at all times.

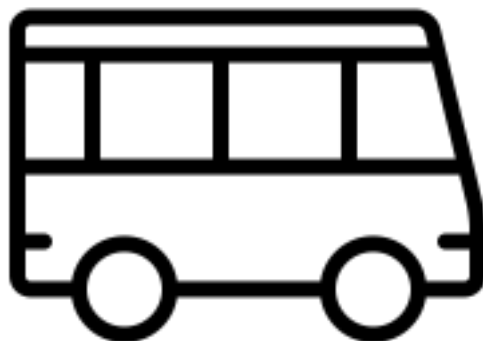
Students will have assigned seats and family households will sit together.

Buses will be loaded from the rear to the front and unloaded from the front to the rear.

Students will face forward and not lean over seats while on the bus.

Each bus will reserve the second seat of the passenger row as a quarantine seat for students who show symptoms while on the bus.

Weather permitting, roof hatches and windows will be open to keep fresh air circulating .



SCHOOL OPERATIONS

Schools will proceed with normal hours of operation unless otherwise notified by ACS. Updated Check-In/Check-Out procedures will be communicated by each individual school with back-to-school information.

Visitors to buildings during normal operating hours will be limited and by appointment only. Masks or facial coverings will be required of visitors in school buildings.

Masks will be required for service, maintenance, or other essential personnel to enter school buildings.

To minimize exposure, personal deliveries to students will be limited to medical needs only.

Students will be able to check out library books with temporary book isolation taking place upon return of books. Individual media center visitation and checkout procedures will vary in each school.

After school programs in elementary schools will operate as scheduled with social distancing and cohort groups utilized as feasible. Similar measures that take place during the school day will occur during after school hours.

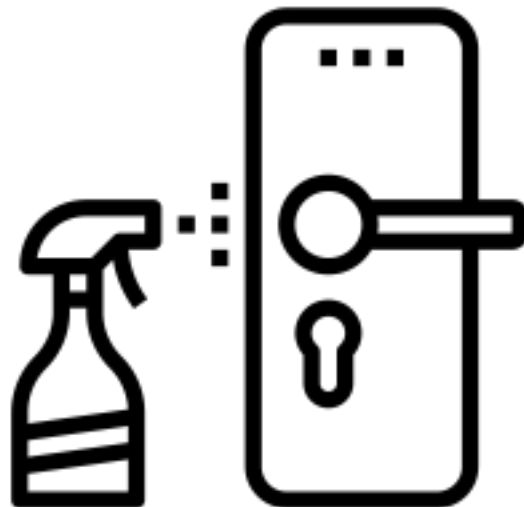


SANITIZING AND CLEANING

School facilities will undergo routine cleaning following guidance from the CDC using EPA-approved products.

High touch areas will be wiped down multiple times per day.

Water fountains will be accessible during the day. Water fountains will be sanitized. Students are encouraged to bring a water bottle filled from home with water daily.



CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM

Breakfast will be served utilizing social distancing for lines and seating. Touchless data entry will occur at the point of sale.

Individual lunch procedures will be established at each site to accommodate social distancing as much as feasible for their physical spaces. Pre-plated meals will be available to all students. Touchless data entry will occur at the point of sale.

Families are encouraged to prepay to reduce the handling of money using My School Bucks.

Ala carte items will not be available for sale in elementary schools. Limited ala carte items will be available in secondary schools with a cash line that will not provide change.



ASSESSMENTS FOR FALL 2020

Regardless of enrollment in Traditional or Remote Learning, some assessments are required by the Alabama State Department of Education.

Grades K-3

The following assessments are required to be taken in the fall by students in grades K-3 as part of the Alabama Literacy Act. Students in Remote Learning will take the assessments virtually.

- [Alabama Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills](#) (Click for information about the new AlaKids assessment for Kindergarten students)
- DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Literacy Skills)
- Renaissance Star Universal Screener

Per the Alabama Literacy Act, parents of students who need additional attention, focus, and support as informed by universal screeners will be notified of the interventions that will be used with their child.

Grades 4-9

Renaissance Star Universal Screeners will also be completed in both Traditional and Remote Learning settings for students in grades 4-9.

Grades 10-12

The following assessments are paper/pencil tests that must be taken at Auburn High School whether the student is enrolled in Traditional or Remote Learning.

- ACT Plus Writing for Grade 12, September 22
- Pre-ACT for Grade 10 (Optional), September 28-October 16
- WorkKeys for Grade 12, October 7

TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES

Clever is a single sign-on web-based portal used by Auburn City Schools to make access to online products easier for students and parents. All students, whether in Traditional or Remote Learning, will use Clever to access web-based products available to students, including Schoology, Nearpod, EduType and Office 365.

[Click here to access Clever.](#) Students will use their network login credentials for their username and lunch number for the password. The typical login credentials are the student's first two initials and last name. For example, William Tyler Johnson would use wtjohnson as his username. Contact the school directly for any problems accessing Clever.

Schoology is available as an app on iPad devices. The username and password for the app-based version of Schoology are the same as the Clever login credentials.



RESOURCES

The following list of resources has been used by Auburn City Schools in planning and facilitating the launch of school.

[Alabama Achieves: Roadmap to Reopening Schools](#)

[Alabama Department of Public Health](#)

[Alabama Safer at Home Orders](#)

[American Academy of Pediatrics](#)

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

[Federal Emergency Management Agency's Coronavirus Rumor Control](#)

[World Health Organization Myth-Busting](#)

[How to Protect Yourself and Others](#)

[ACS Parent and Student Handbook](#)

[ACS School Calendar](#)

[ACS Pandemic Preparedness Plan](#)

[Alabama Courses of Study](#)

[Alabama Literacy Act](#)

[ACCESS Courses Offered Fall 2020](#)

[Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security \(CARES\) Act](#)

[Governor's Emergency Education Relief \(GEER\) Funds](#)

LEARNING INTENT SURVEY

All parents and guardians should complete the ACS Learning Intent Form Fall 2020 for each child.

[Click here](#) to access the English Language survey.

[Click here](#) to access the Spanish Language survey.

[Click here](#) to access the Auburn City Schools Learning Models description sent to parents and guardians July 2, 2020.

[Click here](#) to access the Auburn City Schools Elementary Talking Points document sent to parents and guardians July 2, 2020.

[Click here](#) to access the Auburn City Schools Secondary Talking Points document sent to parents and guardians July 2, 2020.



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