



Dear Creekside Parents and Families,

We hope each of you are enjoying your summer. We miss your children immensely and are working diligently to make sure that we provide a quality school experience for each of them regardless of the model that works best for your family. We know that you are faced with many important decisions in regard to your child's educational experience for the 2020-2021 school year and would like to provide some further details specific to Creekside Elementary and our plans for the fall. Please know that every school in Auburn is unique in layout, enrollment, family needs and choices, student needs etc. The information below will hopefully allow you to feel more informed when making your decision as it relates to students enrolled and attending Creekside. We have used many of the same talking points that were provided earlier to parents from the district office, but have added more detailed information specific to Creekside. This document is intentionally lengthy in an effort to answer as many questions as we can to inform your decision about the upcoming school year.

Please know that while this is uncharted territory for everyone, at Creekside we are doing our very best to balance quality education and instruction, individual needs of students, and health and safety. We will continue to adjust plans and protocols as needed and as suggested by the Alabama Department of Public Health in order to best serve our students and families. If you have any specific questions, please reach out via email or phone call to Mrs. Daniel or Mrs. Harling. We are happy to help and support in any way we can.

Sincerely,

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Remote Learning Model

Students enrolled in remote learning will follow all district guidelines previously provided in terms of device requirements, time of instruction, and orientation meetings.

At Creekside, students participating in remote learning will be placed in a grade specific homeroom class with a Creekside Elementary teacher. This homeroom will be similar in size to the traditional learning environment and will be with other students zoned for Creekside Elementary.

Remote learning will utilize the Schoology platform to communicate activities, instruction, and assessments. The State of Alabama has purchased a standards-based curriculum for all remote learning. Instruction will be a combination of WebEx (face to face) instruction provided by the Creekside teacher, other instructional videos, independent practice activities, etc. The Schoology platform will serve as the vehicle to get all instructional components to the student and family at home. Remote learning teachers will continue to communicate with parents via email, Schoology, telephone, etc. We will continue to utilize professional response times within 24 hours of the initial contact during the work week to address questions and concerns.

Attendance will be determined by student participation in daily/weekly instruction and completion of assignments and assessments. Remote learning and traditional learning will be aligned with lessons and pacing as much as possible. This will allow grade level planning and provision of quality instruction if students are quarantined or become sick.

Remote learning students will have a structured schedule to assist with day-to-day expectations and assignment completion. This will include weekly art, music, venture (3rd grade only) and counseling instruction along with daily PE lessons.

Traditional Learning Classroom Procedures and Instruction

Quality instruction will continue to be provided for all students at Creekside. Within each classroom setting teachers will administer whole group, small group, and individual instructional opportunities to meet student needs. Small groups of students will be pulled strategically to minimize student crossover. Areas where students are receiving instruction in groups (not at their individual desk) will be sanitized following each group and students will use hand washing or hand sanitizing prior to and following the group interaction.

Students will utilize their own classroom supplies as much as possible without sharing. Backpacks, lunch boxes, and water bottles will remain in an individual location for each student instead of grouping these items together in one common location. Students will have access to books from classroom libraries. When those books are returned, the classroom teacher will place it in temporary book isolation before the next student use. All student food consumption will be at the individual student desk.

Classroom Teachers will continue to provide a sanitized and disinfected environment each day for when students return to school. Each teacher will be given an EPA approved cleaner to clean classroom surfaces each day prior to leaving. Custodians will also be following behind teachers cleaning efforts to ensure everything is properly sanitized and disinfected. Cleaning and disinfecting chemicals will be kept in a locked cabinet away from children access.

All homeroom classrooms are furnished with a bathroom sink and classroom sink for handwashing. Teachers will also receive hand sanitizer for student use throughout the school day.

Use of Face Coverings

All faculty and staff will wear masks or face shields during the school day. We are aware that wearing masks for 7 ½ hours for students may be extremely difficult and impede some specific learning opportunities. We are requiring that each student have a face mask available with them at school each day. This will allow the teacher to require masks during portions of the school day when physical distancing is not possible and instruction requires collaboration and student interaction. Some examples: transitions, partner reading, small group guided reading, etc.

While ACS will provide your student with a face mask, if you choose to send your child with a mask that you have purchased, please refrain from sending one that requires physically tying the mask on the child. We feel that this could become a distraction from learning if a child is having to stop and retie the mask periodically during the day.

Hand Washing and Sanitizing

Hand washing will be of utmost importance. Students will receive a hand washing lesson from our school nurse on the first day of school. Students will be encouraged to wash hands frequently following all bathroom trips, transitions, and interactions with school materials.

We will also provide hand sanitizing stations located throughout the main hallways for adult and student use during transitions. There will be a hand sanitizer station placed in the front office specifically for any adult entering the front office. A station will be located at the entry point of the cafeteria line to be utilized for breakfast and lunch pick up. A hand sanitizer station will be located and utilized by students upon entry and exit of the PE space for the day. All classrooms are being provided hand sanitizer for individual student use prior to any snacks or meals and other necessary times.

Physical Distancing

Student desks will be placed 3 to 6 feet apart when feasible. We will make every effort to arrange other furniture to allow more space for distancing. Students will remain with their homeroom class of students, minimizing the crossover with other students and adults. Outdoor spaces will be utilized as much as possible. We will also allow and encourage classroom movement for student benefit utilizing classroom specific spaces on campus. Students that are pulled for intervention services, English-Language Learner services, or special education services will be pulled by those specific instructors, using strategies to minimize crossover with other students and adults.

Sanitizing and Disinfecting

Creekside Elementary is a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified school which means our building is green building certified. Creekside takes environmental precautions with all chemicals that enter the building to ensure air quality and energy efficiency according to LEED certification requirements. ACS and Creekside have purchased EPA-approved disinfectants for use to combat the COVID-19 virus in school settings that are also LEED certified. These chemicals are not typical bleach and Clorox, but have equal to better virus kill times and effectiveness. High-touch surfaces such as door handles, sink and faucet handles, and any shared equipment will be disinfected at least daily, and as often as possible, to maintain sanitary conditions. Regular hand washing as well as other routine cleaning practices will be encouraged.

Special Education

Every child with a disability is entitled to services based on their Individualized Education Plan. In the traditional model, students will be supported in settings outlined in the IEP (inclusion, individual, small group, whole group, etc.). In the remote model, students will also be supported by Special Education teachers based on the IEP, but an amendment to the original plan may be written to accommodate for remote learning.

Attendance

If a student is required to quarantine based on the guidance of public health officials, the absence will be excused and a blended model of learning will take place to support the students. All other student absences will continue to be subject to the attendance policies as outlined in the Auburn City Schools Parent Student Handbook.

Special Areas (Art, Music, Guidance, Library/Media, Computer)

Special area teachers will teach lessons in student classrooms instead of their own spaces (for example, music room or art room). Students will be able to check out library books from the library with temporary book isolation taking place upon return of books. Individual headphones will be used by students provided by the school. iPads and keyboards will be sanitized between class usages. Students will use hand washing or hand sanitizing protocols when they transition to different parts of the building. As health and safety guidance changes, these protocols may also change.

Physical Education (PE)

Required PE will take place each day. Class homerooms will remain distanced as practically as possible. Outside PE and non-equipment games will be utilized as much as possible. Students will use hand sanitizer upon entry into the PE space (indoor/outdoor) and as they leave PE class each day. All PE equipment will be sanitized between class rotations.

Arrival

Students will be able to enter the building at 7:10. Students will report directly to their classroom instead of being held in common areas like previous school years. At 7:40, students will be counted tardy.

Dismissal

Students will be dismissed from their homeroom classrooms instead of common areas utilized in previous school years. While school dismissal time will not change, student dismissal from individual classrooms will be staggered with teachers walking students to dismissal locations to support distancing.

Breakfast

Breakfast will be served utilizing social distancing for lines and seating. No transaction of money or data entry via keypad will occur at the point of sale. Students will take their breakfast to their classrooms to eat and discard their trash.

Lunch

Students will eat in the classroom with their homeroom class. No transaction of money or data entry via keypad will occur at the point of sale. Teachers and Child Nutrition Staff will work together to ensure efficient communication of lunch choices and distribution. Students will utilize hand sanitizer upon entry and exit into the multi-purpose room in order to pick up their lunch. Lunches will be pre-made in covered trays that will allow for easy transport and prevent the spread of germs.

Buses

Students should be screened for symptoms in the morning by the parent or guardian prior to boarding the bus. Drivers will use facial coverings. Students should wear face coverings on buses. Windows will remain open on buses as weather allows. Hand sanitizer will be applied upon entry to the school bus. If your student is riding the bus this year, you will be provided with the child's bus number during the virtual Meet Your Teacher.

Playgrounds

Classrooms will hold recess, by homeroom, on a regular basis. Handwashing and sanitizing protocols will be used before and after playground use. Recess equipment will be sanitized in between class rotations as much as possible.

Visitors

Visitors will not be allowed beyond the main office. Mrs. King will continue to welcome parents and support any needs that arise. Auburn University College of Education students will check in at the main office and will be required to follow all guidelines required of the CES faculty and staff.

After School Program

After school programs will operate as scheduled with proper distancing and cohort groups utilized as feasible. Afterschool schedules and student interactions are being prepared to minimize student crossover and meet social distancing guidelines. Similar measures that take place during the school day will occur during after school hours.

Special Events

Our theme for the 2020-2021 school year is TOGETHER, WE SOAR. We still believe that we are better when together whether that is face to face or through remote options. We will continue to provide ALL students a school experience including book fairs, special programs, performances, etc. During the first semester, prior to winter break, these special events will be provided via live recordings and utilize remote technology. The safety circumstances will be reassessed and a decision will be made for second semester in January

Classroom Teacher Assignments

Students participating in both traditional and remote learning will receive a letter by standard mail letting them know who their teacher will be for the 2020-2021 school year. Also, in this mailing there will be an informational pamphlet about our school year and meet your teacher information with sign-up links.

Meet Your Teacher

Meet your teacher will be held virtually this year via WebEx for both traditional and remote learning students. Families will be provided a link with their teacher letter to sign-up for an individual time to meet their classroom teacher.

Clubs

Creekside will not have fall clubs this year in order to have ample time each afternoon for cleaning and sanitation procedures as well as minimize student interactions and support social distancing.

Behavior Celebrations

Creekside will continue to have behavior celebrations in conjunction with our school wide positive behavior support model. These will be held in classrooms each nine weeks to minimize student crossover and support social distancing. There will also be a behavior celebration planned each nine weeks for remote learning students.