



Dean Road Elementary School Reopening Plan 2020-2021

Dr. Jackie Greenwood, Principal
Tonya Nolen, Assistant Principal

Dear Dean Road Parents and Families,

On behalf of the Dean Road family, we would like to say **WELCOME BACK!!** We have missed you all so much and we look forward to seeing all the sweet, smiling faces of our kids in August! We anxiously await getting to know our new friends and welcome our families back! We hope that you are having an enjoyable summer and want you to know that we are working diligently to make sure that we provide a quality school experience for each of our children regardless of the model that works best for your family. Our theme for the 2020-2021 school year is ***LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE AT CAMP DEAN ROAD***. We still believe that we can **SHINE BRIGHT** as Dean Road Rockets whether we are physically in school and 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.

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 I would like to provide some details more specific to Dean Road Elementary and our plans for the fall to aid you in making the best decision. 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 Dean Road. 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 Dean Road. 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.

Classroom Teacher Assignments

Dean Road students participating in both traditional and remote learning will receive a letter in the mail letting them know who their teacher will be for the 2020-2021 school year. Also, included with this letter you will find a sign-up link for Meet the Teacher along with other information about our school and from our PTO. **HOMEROOM TEACHER ASSIGNMENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO ENROLLMENT OR HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS.**

Meet Your Teacher

Meet your teacher will be held virtually this year during the week of August 4th-7th via Webex for both traditional and remote learning students. Our teachers are looking forward to connecting with students and families via virtual means. Families will be provided a link with their teacher letter to sign-up for an individual 15-minute meeting with their classroom teacher. If you are unable to participate virtually, please call the office (334-887-4900) to schedule a time for a 15-minute phone conference with your teacher.

School Supplies

If you ordered your school supplies online, they will be delivered to classrooms and will be waiting for your child on the first day of school. If you did not order school supplies, we will have a date for drop off (August 4th-7th) prior to the first day of school to minimize students needing to bring them on the first day. You will receive your date during your Meet the Teacher Webex meeting. PLEASE make sure that all supplies are labeled and this includes masks, water bottles, sweaters, jackets, coats, lunchboxes, etc.

Visitors

Visitors to the building during normal operating hours will be limited and by appointment only. Mrs. Jones will continue to welcome parents and support any needs that arise. To minimize exposure, personal deliveries to students will be limited to medical needs only. We will have a basket located at the front office for you to drop off belongings. All visitors are required to wear masks and practice social distancing upon entering the building. **THIS INCLUDES THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL .** Resource teachers and staff will be available on the first days of school to ensure students know where to go.

Student check-in and check-out

If a student is late or tardy, arriving to school at or after 7:45; parents are required to sign them in at the office. Social distancing is expected during this time as well. If you will be checking your child out of school early, please call the office at 887-4900 and Mrs. Kim will walk your child out and provide you with a clipboard to sign your child out. **We will still have a policy of NO CHECKOUTS AFTER 2:00.**

Use of Face Coverings

At Dean Road, all faculty and staff will wear masks and 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, therefore students WILL NOT be required to wear them all day.

Students in Auburn City Schools will be required to wear masks, as feasible. This will allow the teacher to require masks during certain 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. 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. We ask that these not have strings or ribbon that would need to be tied. Please note, **WHEN WE MOVE, WE MASK.**

Physical Distancing

At Dean Road, 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. Students will be grouped in cohorts with other classes for recess and PE. 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, EL services, or special education services will be pulled by those specific instructors, using strategies to minimize crossover with other students and adults.

Hand Washing and Sanitizing

Hand washing at Dean Road 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 building for staff and student use during transitions. There will be a hand sanitizer station placed in the front entry specifically for any adult entering the front office. A hand sanitizing 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.

Sanitizing and Disinfecting

Dean Road takes environmental precautions with all chemicals that enter the building to ensure air quality. ACS and Dean Road have purchased EPA-approved disinfectants for use to combat the COVID-19 virus in school settings. These EPA-approved products are not typical bleach or Clorox, but are designed to kill viruses quickly and effectively. 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.

Water fountains will be available for student use but we **strongly encourage** students to bring water bottles to use. Please be sure to label them with the student's name. Our custodians will keep all water fountains sanitized/disinfected all throughout the day.

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

Attendance

If a student is required to quarantine (10-14 days) 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.

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 below are based on current information and 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 DRE 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.

Classroom Procedures and Instruction

Quality instruction will continue to be provided for all students at Dean Road. 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. PLEASE LABEL ALL ITEMS. 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 access by children.

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

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

At Dean Road, 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. Upon return, books will be sanitized with a portable UV sterilizer. Individual headphones will be used by students. iPads and keyboards will be sanitized between class usages. Students will use hand washing and/or hand sanitizing protocols when they transition to different parts of the building. Students can also wear gloves during resource class to share supplies. As health and safety guidance changes, these protocols may also change.

Physical Education (PE)

PE classes are required and 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. When PE equipment is used, it will be sanitized between class rotations.

Playgrounds

Classes will hold recess, by homeroom and cohort, 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.

Arrival

Dean Road students are able to enter the building each morning at 7:10. Students will report directly to their classroom instead of being held in the multipurpose room like previous school years. At 7:45,

students will be marked tardy. For student and staff safety, **ALL** students should come through the car line via bus or car. Buses will unload one at a time and students will be directed which way to go in order to prevent large groups from congregating in the hallways. Parents should not park and walk students to the building as no visitors are allowed in classrooms or the hallway. **THIS DOES INCLUDE THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL.** First day of school pictures with the teacher will be taken in the classroom and will be forwarded to parents/posted on DOJO and/or emailed or texted to parents by the end of the day. Teachers will provide more detailed information on your Meet the Teacher Webex.

Parents will need to refrain from standing at entry doorways so that social distancing can take place safely. Thank you so much for your consideration and understanding as we keep all students and staff safe and healthy.

Dismissal

At Dean Road, students will be dismissed from their homeroom classrooms and/or hallway in cohorts instead of common areas utilized in previous school years. Resource teachers will assist with dismissal. Student dismissal from individual classroom will be staggered and begin earlier than in previous years. Teachers will walk students to dismissal locations to support distancing.

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. While riding the bus, students are required to wear masks/face coverings, sit facing forward at all times and will have assigned seats. Windows will remain open on buses as weather allows. Hand sanitizer will be applied upon entry to the school bus. Bus safety rules still apply and are expected to be followed. We will continue to take attendance of each student that boards the bus during dismissal. Buses will be loaded in a manner to prevent students from mixing in large crowds.

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 lunch in the classroom with their homeroom class. No transaction of money or data entry via keypad will occur at the point of sale. Lunch accounts should be paid online using My School Bucks or any money brought to school should be in an envelope with your child's name and teacher name included on the outside of the envelope. Teachers and Child Nutrition Staff will work together to ensure efficient communication of lunch choices (if available) and distribution. Students will utilize hand soap and/or hand sanitizer prior to eating. It would be helpful if students preorder breakfast and lunch each Friday for the following week. Lunches will be pre-made in covered trays that will allow for easy transport and prevent the spread of germs.

School/Classroom celebrations

No outside food or snacks may be brought into the classroom for group consumption. This includes treats brought in for student birthdays or holidays. Additionally, class parties involving food will be suspended for at least the fall semester. We WILL find ways to celebrate all the wonderful children and events that occur throughout the year. We will continue to provide school experiences such as virtual bookfairs, activities and celebrations. Dean Road will not have fall clubs this year in order to minimize student interactions and support social distancing. Safety circumstances will be reassessed in January to determine Spring semester activities.

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.

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.

Remote Learning

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

At Dean Road, students participating in remote learning will be placed in a grade specific homeroom class with a Dean Road Elementary teacher. This homeroom will be similar in size to the traditional learning environment and will be with other students zoned for Dean Road 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 Dean Road 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 with a teacher to assist with day-to-day expectations and assignment completion. This will include weekly art, music, and counseling instruction along with daily PE lessons.

Please know that while this is uncharted territory for everyone, we at Dean Road 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 Dr Greenwood or Mrs. Nolen. We are happy to help and support in any way we can.

With sincerest appreciation,

Jackie Greenwood, Principal
jgreenwood@auburnschools.org
334-887-4900

Tonya Nolen, Assistant Principal
mtnolen@auburnschools.org
334-887-4900