

**ARTHUR T. TALMADGE SCHOOL
RETURNING TO THE BUILDING
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)
MARCH 2021**

APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES

WHAT TYPE OF MASK SHOULD MY CHILD WEAR?

- Masks must meet CDC guidelines: cover the nose and mouth, and fit snugly against the sides of face.
- Cloth masks are encouraged for every student. Disposable masks are also allowed.
- No gator-style masks or bandanas allowed.
- Face shields are only permitted with a mask worn underneath at the same time. They cannot be worn alone.
- A second mask should be sent in a Ziploc®/plastic or paper bag in case the first gets soiled or dirty.

WHAT WILL BE THE MASK-WEARING PROTOCOL FOR EVERYONE IN THE SCHOOL BUILDING?

- Everyone will be required to always wear a mask except for when eating and drinking.
- Teachers will schedule socially-distanced mask breaks in the classroom, throughout the day.

WHAT IS CONSIDERED “APPROPRIATE ATTIRE” IF MY STUDENT DOESN’T WEAR A UNIFORM?

- No caps, hats, hoods, or bandanas are to be worn during school.
- Clothing with any logos, pictures or messages that are graphic or offensive will not be allowed.
- Shoes must fit securely on the foot. No open-toed shoes, flip flops or sandals will be permitted.
- Coats, jackets, and hooded sweatshirts cannot be worn in the classroom.

BUILDING ACCESS

WHAT WILL THE DROP OFF AND PICK UP PROCESS LOOK LIKE?

Car Drop Off

- Cars dropping off students should enter the line from Allen Street and follow the designated route.
- Cars will wait in the line, pulling up to the marked, DESIGNATED DROP OFF ZONE as the line moves.
- ONE car will unload at a time to ensure social distancing is maintained.
- **Students must be wearing their masks when exiting their vehicles.**
- Staff will direct students once they exit their vehicle. There will be special markings and distancing in place.

Walkers

- Walkers will follow a similar process, with a marked, designated DROP OFF ZONE, where they will say goodbye to the person accompanying them.
- **Students must be wearing their masks when they reach school property**
- **Anyone accompanying a walking student must also wear a mask.**
- Markers will be on the sidewalk approaching the building to ensure social distancing.
- Staff will direct students to their place as they approach the building.

HOW WILL LATE ARRIVALS AND EARLY DISMISSALS BE HANDLED?

- The process will remain the same as before, with cars entering from Allen Street and pulling up to the door.
- There will be special markings and distancing for individuals once they exit their vehicles and enter the building.

Late Arrivals

- **Students must be wearing their masks when exiting their vehicles.**
- Guardians will accompany their child to the door, ring the bell and wait to be buzzed in.
- **Anyone accompanying a student inside must also wear a mask.**
- Guardians will escort the child inside to the main office and then leave. A staff member will assist the child.
- **NO VISITORS WILL BE ALLOWED PAST THE MAIN OFFICE DUE TO CDC regulations.**

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Early Dismissal

- Guardians picking up students early should go to the door, ring the bell and wait to be buzzed in.
- **Anyone coming inside the building must wear a mask.**
- Guardians should approach the main office window and state who they are picking up.
- Students will be called down for dismissal and sign out.
- **NO VISITORS WILL BE ALLOWED PAST THE MAIN OFFICE DUE TO CDC regulations.**

Visitors

- School visitors will only be allowed in the building by appointment.
- Most visitors will be let in **ONLY** if deemed necessary by the school personnel.
- The bell and intercom will be the point of communication with the main office upon arrival.
- **Anyone coming inside the building must wear a mask.**
- **NO VISITORS WILL BE ALLOWED PAST THE MAIN ENTRANCE DUE TO CDC regulations.**

MEALS

ARE STUDENTS ALLOWED TO BRING THEIR OWN LUNCH TO SCHOOL?

- Yes. We are a peanut-free environment, so please follow those guidelines.

WHERE WILL THE STUDENTS EAT BREAKFAST AND LUNCH?

- At their desks in their assigned classroom.

WHAT FOOD OPTIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE IN SCHOOL?

- Breakfast options will be similar to before with mostly cold food options.
- Lunch options will always have a cold selection and some days may offer a hot option as well.
- The meal calendar can be found at: [Grab-n-Go Meal Sites: Home Grown Springfield](#)

ARE WE STILL ELIGIBLE FOR THE MEAL PICK UP PROGRAM?

- Yes. Talmadge will continue to be a food site on M W F from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. More details coming from Sodexo.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

HOW WILL RECESS OR "FREE TIME" BE HANDLED?

- Student will have either indoor recess in their classrooms or outdoor recess, weather permitting.
- Students will not share play items during this time.
- The school and PTA are working on purchasing more items for students to play with.

WHERE WILL MY STUDENT STORE HIS/HER BELONGINGS AT SCHOOL?

- Each student has its own workspace - their desk is only for them and **will not be shared with anyone else.**
- Each student will have a bin for their work and supplies, and an additional basket for personal items.
- Coats and bags will hang on their individual desk chairs instead of in the cubbies they have used previously.

HOW WILL BATHROOM BREAKS BE HANDLED?

- Teachers will schedule three group bathroom breaks daily.
- Students may request to use the bathroom outside of those times, adhering to social distancing, and always handwashing/sanitizing when exiting and re-entering the classroom.

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INSTRUCTIONAL INFORMATION

- There will always be students in the classroom and students at home learning virtually.
- The teacher will teach to all students concurrently, regardless of where they are located.
- We have installed web cameras in classes to assist with this process and teaching approach.
- Remote learners will be on Zoom for the entire school day, except for a 45-minute lunch break and recess time.
- **Please be patient as we learn this new way of teaching. This is new for everyone. 😊**

MEDICAL ITEMS

WILL THERE BE POOL TESTING AT THE SCHOOL? WHAT IF I DON'T WANT MY STUDENT TESTED?

- Yes, there will be a pool testing option for students and staff.
- Students of parents/guardians who have provided consent will be included in the pooled testing.
- There will be a protocol in the event that someone, who was in the building, tests positive for COVID-19.

DO I STILL CONTACT THE NURSE DIRECTLY IF MY CHILD HAS SPECIAL MEDICAL NEEDS?

- Yes. Please contact Jennifer Fortune at (413) 787-7249 or fortunej@springfieldpublicschools.com.

MISCELLANEOUS

WILL STUDENTS START RECEIVING HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS LIKE PRE-PANDEMIC?

- The expectation for work at home will continue as it has all year with no change post re-opening.
- Students with make-up work or assignments not finished during the day, are encouraged to do so after hours.

TECHNOLOGY

MY STUDENT HAS A SPS LAPTOP. DOES S/HE NEED TO BRING IT BACK AND FORTH FROM SCHOOL?

- Students opting for the hybrid model in April, that have a SPS laptop, will need to bring the device between home and school for that timeframe.
- Once students return to the building fulltime in May, they will be able to leave their devices in the classroom.
- Remote learners will continue to use the device they currently have at home.