Start of the 2020-2021 School Year Helpful Hints

We know that the 2020-2021 school year will be a year unlike any other, and coming off an extended absence from the school building, students and parents will have more concerns and questions than normal.

Here are a few questions that have been frequently asked:

1) How will students be checked for fever or COVID-19 symptoms at school?

Students who ride the bus will be screened after they get off the school bus.
Students who drive to school will be screened before entering the courtyard area.
Students who are brought to school as a car rider will be screened before getting out of the car.

To help facilitate this, car rider students will only be allowed to enter the school through the auditorium entrance. Bus riders will enter campus at the gates by the auditorium. Car riders will enter campus as they have traditionally done at either gate.

Students who have a fever or certain symptoms will have to follow procedures to maintain the health and safety of everyone on campus.

To help facilitate this, it is imperative that students are dropped off only at designated locations. Please do not try to drop students off at the front of the school. Parents, please follow the directions of OSHS employees while driving on campus.

2) What will students do once arriving on campus and clearing screening procedures?

Upon arriving on campus, students will need to report immediately to their TA class on August 6. The only exception to this is to pick up a grab and go breakfast in the cafeteria. In the past, students have been able to congregate in different areas. This is not allowed this year. Once dropped off, students will be screened, have the opportunity to pick up a grab and go breakfast in the cafeteria, and then report immediately to their TA class on August 6. When on regular schedule

3) When are students required to wear masks at school?

Pursuant to Governor Reeves’s Executive Order, students will be required to wear masks when on campus with very limited exceptions. As a general practice, it is recommended that everyone wear masks anywhere social distancing is not possible.
4) **My student is very concerned about absences impacting their exemption status this year. What do students need to know about absences and exemptions?**

There is a moratorium on absences impacting exemptions for high school students for the 2020-2021 school year. Exemptions will be based on the guidelines in the OSHS handbook.

5) **What can my student do to help protect the health and safety of everyone on campus?**

Students are able to play a major role in the protection of everyone’s health on campus. A sick student should stay home. Students are required to wear masks at all times (other than when eating or drinking) on campus. Students should consider limiting engagements outside of the house, and when out and about, wear masks and practice social distancing. Students should practice proper hygiene and sanitation practices such as washing hands.

6) **How will bathrooms and water fountains work this year?**

Classes will have a scheduled time period to use the restroom this year. Restrooms will be closed during class changes to help promote social distancing and to facilitate a four-minute transition time between classes. Water fountains are not available, but students can bring a refillable water bottle to school and use the water bottle refill stations.

7) **Where can I find the updated bell schedule for OSHS?**

Bell schedules have been updated on the OSHS website (oshs.ossdms.org). We will run a special schedule the first couple of days of the school year:

**TA in the Morning (Used mostly the 1st week of school)**  
1st Bell    9:01  
TA          9:05 - 9:22  
1st Blk     9:26 - 10:53  
2nd Blk and Lunch  10:57 - 12:48  
3rd Blk     12:52 - 2:19  
4th Blk     2:23 - 3:50
8) Where can I stay up to date on COVID-19 information as it pertains to Ocean Springs School District?

Parents should frequently check our Health Alerts Portal on our district website. OSSD will also send updates through our school messaging system and post on social media.

9) When will I get my parking decal?

The process for getting a parking decal has had to go online due to COVID-19 concerns. We appreciate the patience so many of you have shown during this process. The application for parking can be found on the Ocean Springs High School website. It takes a little longer to process these applications this year. Due to the high volume, it may take 3-5 business days from submission of application until the approval of applications.

Students who have a valid application and parental consent for drug testing may drive on campus on a provisional basis until they purchase and receive their decal.

Decals will be delivered to students this year in TA or second block.

10) How has the dismissal process changed this year?

Both our morning dropoff and afternoon pick up have changed for the 2020-2021 school year. Our morning traffic pattern will utilize looping through the parking lot near the band hall before dropping off students. In the afternoon, there will be a staggered dismissal of students. Students need to report directly to their means of transportation.

11) What do I do if my schedule isn't correct?

OSHS does not make schedule changes, but we do make schedule corrections. Should students have concerns about schedules, we ask that they email their counselors. Until they have been notified of a change, students should follow the schedule given to them.

12) What if my child has been exposed to or exhibits symptoms of COVID-19?

Should your child be exposed to COVID-19 or exhibit symptoms of COVID-19, parents should complete the COVID exposure form located on the OSSD Health Alerts page.

Much about our school day has changed this year in order to keep everyone on our campus safe. We appreciate your help and your student’s help in this. We have no doubt that OS will shine!