Ocean Springs School District
Restart Plan
2020-2021

OSSD will return for the 2020-21 school year on a Traditional Schedule with Enhanced Health and Safety Protocols

July 17, 2020
OSSD Family Correspondence
Joint Letter from OSSD Board President and Superintendent

July 15, 2020

Dear Greyhounds,

On July 14, 2020, the Ocean Springs School District Board of Trustees approved the OSSD Restart Plan for the 2020-21 school year. We are keenly aware that this year will have many challenges, but we are also confident that together, our team will meet these challenges with resilience and ingenuity.

Our administration has worked diligently to address the OSSD Board of Trustees’ established priority of reopening our schools, which proposed a traditional daily schedule with enhanced safety protocols for the protection of our students, staff, and community. We remain committed to providing exemplary instruction, either virtually or in person. We know this is your expectation, our charge, and the OS way!

We considered many variables in our Restart Plan: the populations of our campuses, the demographics of our staff, and the results of our district survey that nearly 3,000 Greyhounds completed. Our OSSD Medical Advisory Council collaborated with our administration to apply the Centers for Disease Control Guidelines and MS Department of Health recommendations to our enhanced health and safety protocols. We are indeed fortunate to have a medical community that is committed to our school district. Our community will see further evidence of this commitment in the new services that Singing River Hospital System has developed specifically for OSSD employees.

We appreciate the patience that you have demonstrated since our school buildings closed in March. While none of this has been easy, our staff has remained steadfast in taking care of our students. We need that same commitment and patience as we move forward with safely opening our schools. Please read the approved plan, which can be found at the end of this document. Should you have any questions or concerns, know that your administration is available to respond to your concerns.

We have decided that our theme for the upcoming school year will be #OSRESILIENT! This year resilience must be our defining characteristic. Please take care of yourself and your families, and we look forward to seeing you on August 5, 2020.

In Greyhound Spirit,

Joe Cloyd, President
OSSD Board of Trustees

Bonita Coleman, PhD
Superintendent of Schools
OSSD School Schedules for 2020-2021

- All staff will return on August 3, 2020, and receive professional development.
- Students will return to schools on August 5, 2020, with enhanced health and safety protocols.
- *This plan represents the need to modify school operational protocols for the protection of students, staff, and our community.* OSSD administration, in consultation with our Medical Advisory Council, presented this plan for approval to the OSSD Board of Trustees on July 14, 2020. This plan provides for contact tracing by keeping class/group populations static and provides for extensive sanitation and health procedures.
- OSSD Greyhound Virtual Academy (application required) will provide instruction to those students who are not able to return in August due to documented medical needs or immunity-related concerns.

*The school calendar remains unchanged at this time with regards to scheduled holidays, breaks, start, and finish dates.*

Please note that these plans are subject to change based on the Mississippi Department of Health and/or Mississippi Department of Education requirements.

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**Grades 4-6 Schedule**

- 7:25-2:25
- ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies, Gifted Education, Special Area Classes
- POWER HOUR
- 6th Grade Modified Specials
- Staggered Recess Times

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**Grades 7-8 Schedule**

- 8:45-3:35
- Math, ELA, Science, History
- Electives: Spanish 1, Band, Cyber Foundations/ICT 2, Teen Leadership, Art, Music, PE

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**Grades K-3 Schedule**

- 7:35-2:40
- ELA, Math, Science and Social Studies
- Gifted Education
- Special Area Classes
- Staggered Recess Times

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**Grades 9-12 Schedule**

- 9:05-3:50
- Four Blocks of Instruction based on Students’ Schedules
- No Breakfast Break
OSSD Approach to Reopening

OSSD MITIGATION PLANS DEVELOPED BY CAMPUS

- Traffic flow pattern adjustments by campus to increase social distancing
- Daily schedule adjustments
- Daily temperature screenings and establishment of staging areas
- Daily sanitation of high touch areas
- Staff duty stations have been redesigned to address new traffic patterns and schedule changes
- Please see the full plan (link on the final page) for all protocols that will be implemented this school year
Purpose of the Virtual Academy

- OSSD Greyhound Virtual Academy will provide instruction to those students who are not able to return in August due to documented medical needs (by a doctor) or immunity concerns (documented by a parent).
- Students will be tested for grade-level performance and placed in an appropriate schedule when they return to the traditional schedule.
- Students must remain on the virtual learning platform for a period of 9 weeks.
- An application for an extension will only be approved based on the successful completion of prior 9-week assignments and attendance requirements.
- Students who attend the Greyhound Virtual Academy will not be eligible for participation in sports or extracurricular activities.
- Parents will receive notification of the acceptance/denial of the application by 7/31/2020.

Instructional Design of the Greyhound Virtual Academy

- Students in the Greyhound Virtual Academy will still be enrolled at their regular school, but they will participate in virtual learning and complete their assignments at home on a required schedule.
- Teachers will assist students in working through weekly assignments with a mix of interactive and independent activities.
- The content and pace will match traditional school curriculum expectations. This is not a homeschool experience.

Eligibility

In the application, a parent can submit a form we have provided that does not require a physician’s signature. This is our High Risk/Immunity Concern form and would be used if members of the family or household have preexisting conditions or are immune-compromised. The risk of sending the child to the school daily would place a higher risk to a member of the family.

The other form is the Physician’s Statement and does require a physician’s signature. It is for the student that has a preexisting condition. Even with extensive accommodations, the physician has determined it would be in the child’s best interest to work in the virtual environment rather than the building at this time. The FERPA/HIPAA form must be submitted if you are submitting the physician’s statement. This is necessary on our end as your recommendation and diagnosis are now being placed in the child’s educational records.
OSSD Restart Information

- **OSSD Full Restart Plan Presented to OSSD Board of Trustees for Approval on July 14, 2020**
- **OSSD Restart Plan Public Presentation Presented to OSSD Board of Trustees on July 14, 2020**
- **OSSD Health Alert Portal**
- **Email the OSSD Response Team**

OSSD Positive or Suspected COVID Exposure Reporting Tools

1. Live for OSSD Employees on 7/14/2020
2. Live for OSSD Families on 7/25/2020