

Seward Middle School Return to School Information 2020-2021

As we return to school, in order to do our best to keep everyone in the building as safe as possible while continuing to educate students in person, please be aware of the following guidelines to be followed until further notice. Most of your questions may already be answered by Dr. Fields audio presentation sent out last week but I will include some middle school specific items.

1. **Masks are mandatory.** Mask breaks will be provided when appropriate and regulated by staff. We encourage students to bring their own but we have a limited number for students who don't have or periodically forget to bring one. A wide variety of masks are acceptable as long as they are appropriate and cover the mouth and nose.
2. **School Hours, 8:05 - 3:23.** We will open our doors at 8:00 a.m. Students who eat breakfast can enter at 7:40 a.m. to eat, then go back outside when they are done eating. While eating breakfast, there will be distance between students. We ask that students do not arrive early or congregate before school if they do arrive early. School ends at 3:23 p.m.
3. **School Day.** We plan to reduce the amount of student contact as much as possible. Students will be released by grade levels during passing periods and at the end of the day and we ask that they don't congregate during those times.
4. **Lunch.** We have spread tables further apart and will add tables to help with student distancing. We will also have assigned seating at lunch. As students arrive at lunch the first day they will be able to pick their seat but required to sit at that same seat until a chart is no longer needed. This is to help with contact tracing if necessary.
5. **Water Bottles.** Students are allowed to bring their own bottles and we do have one bottle filler in the building. Keep in mind, the drinking fountains will be closed and most of our water faucets are too small to fit the larger water bottles, so plan accordingly.
6. **Drop Off/Pick Up.** Waverly Road is currently under construction but we still have access to our drive off of Waverly Road. I anticipate more people dropping off and picking up students from our east entrance. For the safety of our kids, be patient, drive slow, follow posted signs and staff who may be directing traffic.

Our Open House schedule will be sent out in the SPS district letter to parents later this week. I do encourage new students to the middle school to visit during the first week of August to help reduce anxiety of the first day. In the past, Open House was very busy at the beginning but greatly tapered off the last 45 minutes so if it meets your schedule and you want to reduce your contact with people but still want to attend, consider coming the last 30-45 minutes.

Thank you in advance for your patience, flexibility and understanding with our attempts to hit a constantly moving, invisible target with this pandemic. As always, please call the school if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Kirk J. Gottschalk
Principal

