



October 30, 2020

Dear Sumter School District Families:

Thank you again for your patience and flexibility as we continue our transition to hybrid instruction. Our employees, students, and parents have made an outstanding effort to adhere to the safety protocols we have in place. Sumter School District now plans to transition to Phase Three and Phase Four of hybrid instruction:

- Phase Three
 - November 5 - fourth grade, fifth grade, and seventh grade
 - November 6 - high school Cohort B (Cohort 2)
 - *Please note, high school Cohort A (Cohort 1) is virtual (at home) during Phase Three and will return to hybrid instruction during Phase Four.
- Phase Four
 - November 12 - eighth grade and high school Cohorts A and B
- Each school will communicate specific information regarding class schedules.

As a reminder, Mondays and Thursdays are A days. Tuesdays and Fridays are B days. When cohorts do not report to school, they participate in live virtual instruction from home with their classes. Students will continue to learn independently from home through prerecorded lessons or assignments on Wednesdays in order for schools to provide professional development for staff and deep clean facilities.

Please note the following dates that impact instructional days:

- November 3: School will be closed for Election Day.
- November 11: School will be closed for Veterans Day.
- November 23-25: These days are designated virtual learning days. Students will receive prerecorded lessons and assignments.
- November 26-27: School will be closed for Thanksgiving.

Please note, parents have the option for their children to remain virtual for the entire semester with appropriate documentation. We will do our best to honor the preferences of our parents and keep siblings together as we continue to keep the safety of our students and staff at the forefront of every decision that is made.

As we reintroduce our students to school, it is most important that we remind our children of the safety guidelines established by the CDC, specifically the importance of staying six feet apart, wearing masks, washing hands, and following school bus and classroom safety protocols. In addition, students should not share supplies, masks, food, or water bottles. We will also continue to adhere to our practice of not permitting visitors beyond the school lobby.

I would like to stress the importance of your child being present each and every day. Collectively, we are making every attempt to ensure every student is engaged in instruction. Please reach out to your child's school if you need additional assistance. We are here to support you and answer any questions you may have. We are stronger together!

For the Children,

Dr. Penelope E. Martin-Knox, Superintendent

Sumter School District is an equal opportunity employer.