

# Midway Elementary Restart Q & A

Parents,

It is important to me that you and your child feel safe while they are at Midway Elementary. We have taken our district's restart plan as a guide to create our own. After meeting with a few of our staff members and parents, we've developed a plan of how our school will look when we return on September 8th. It's important that we begin the year with the utmost caution in all of our procedures, so that we can ensure the safety of our students and staff. Some of the answers in this Question and Answer document may change slightly as we grow closer to our start date, but our goal is to be consistent and stick to our plan so that you will know exactly how our school will look. We're ready to see our students and we're ready to make this year the best it can be. I want to assure you that our staff will work hard to make sure your child receives the best education, love, support, and care in the safest environment we can provide. We know you have a big decision to make about your child's education and we want you to choose Midway feeling confident that we are prepared to make this the best year ever, no matter what. I look forward to seeing many of you soon. Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

Brandon Meares, Principal

\*Updated July 23rd, 2020

\*\*Updated August 6th, 2020

	Question	Answer
1.	What time will school start and end each day?	School will begin at 8:00am and end at 2:30pm.
**2.	If I choose the virtual school for my student, can we switch back to traditional school at any time? If I choose	Parents have the option to switch to either virtual or traditional school at then end of the first semester. Parents will need to

	<p>the traditional school for my student, can we switch to virtual school at any time?</p>	<p>make their decision by December 4th, 2020. (Updated on July 22nd, 2020)          *If you did register for the Virtual Academy and wish to withdraw your student in order to attend traditional school on September 8th, you must email your intent to withdraw your student to <a href="mailto:WandaWhitfield@anderson5.net">WandaWhitfield@anderson5.net</a> by August 21st.</p>
<p>**3.</p>	<p>Will students and staff be required to wear masks?</p>	<p>All students and staff members will wear masks in common areas throughout the day. Students and staff may remove their masks during lunch, recess, or when they are socially distant within the classroom. We will plan intentional mask breaks throughout the day.  <a href="#">SC Department of Education Face Covering Guidelines for K-12 Public Schools</a></p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>What is the difference between eLearning and Virtual School?</p>	<p>The A5 Virtual Academy will not be a part of Midway Elementary. Students will be assigned a district teacher for instruction in the A5 Virtual Academy.. The A5 Virtual Academy will follow the “Edmentum” curriculum which is standards-based. If school is closed due to severe weather or COVID-19, the A5 Virtual Academy will not be affected.</p> <p>If traditional school is closed due to severe weather or COVID-19, students will participate in eLearning. eLearning will follow a district-wide model this year and will be led by your student’s teacher. We have a plan at Midway to make eLearning, should conditions necessitate it, dramatically improved over what we did in the spring. We were limited by the state at that time, who required that no new standards were presented and required that all work be review work. We are committed to make any eLearning a personal Midway education with as much communication and assistance as</p>

		possible to support our students and families.
5.	What will the classroom look like this year?	Students will stay within their classroom throughout the day with minimal transitions. Students will not departmentalize in 4th and 5th grade this school year, so their teacher will teach all subjects. Related arts teachers will push-in to the class to teach their lessons with the exception of PE. Students will be able to go to the gym during PE, but will be restricted on material use. All 3rd-5th grade classes will use desks instead of tables and practice social distancing to the best of their abilities within the classroom.
6.	Will students have recess?	Students will participate in recess with their class only. Grade level recess will not happen until further notice.
7.	What safety measures are in place?	Everyone will be wearing masks throughout the day. Hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms and at the end of each hallway. Floor decals will be present to help students social distance in the hallway. Custodians will be cleaning contact surfaces throughout the day with disinfectant sprays. Students will stay with other students from their homeroom throughout the day. An ionized fogger was purchased for Midway that will be used at the end of each day to sanitize classrooms.
8.	Will students eat lunch in their classrooms or cafeteria?	We have a plan that will ultimately allow all students to come through the serving line and eat in the cafeteria. At this time, we will begin with a few grade levels at a time with maximum social distancing, we will gradually add other grade levels one at a time.
9.	If a student or staff member is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, what is the protocol?	A private room in the school will be utilized for that student or staff member. Parents of the student will be notified to pick up

		the student and take them to the doctor. They will be excluded from work or school until they test negative, symptoms have improved, and a medical evaluation determines symptoms are due to another cause.
10.	What if a student or staff member test positive for COVID-19?	The student or staff member must stay out of school until: 10 days have passed since symptoms started AND 3 days fever free without taking medication to reduce fever AND Their symptoms have improved.
11.	What if a student or staff member test positive, but have no symptoms?	They are required to stay out of school until 10 days after the specimen was collected for testing.
12.	What if a family member of a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19?	The person will need to quarantine until 7 days after their household member has been cleared from their isolation period. Temperature and symptoms should be monitored during this time.
13.	What if a person in my student's class tests positive? How will this be communicated to parents? Will the entire class need to quarantine?	We are currently waiting on a document and guidance from DHEC on what to do in this situation.
14.	What do my students need to do when they arrive at school?	The doors will open at 6:50. Students eating breakfast will be spread out in the cafeteria. Learning Lab students will have assigned seating areas in the cafeteria. Kindergarten through 2nd grade students will be housed in the auditorium 6 feet apart from the next class until 7:15. 3rd grade through 5th grade students will be housed in the gym 6 feet apart from the next class until 7:15. Teachers will walk grade levels (K, 1, 3, 4, 5) to their hallway at 7:15 to sit in front of their classroom. 2nd grade will remain in the auditorium until 7:45. At 7:45, students will enter their classroom. If possible, I recommend

		not arriving before 7:15 to prevent large gatherings in our holding areas. Students will likely be sitting within 6 feet of students in their classroom in the morning.
15.	How will dismissal from school look this year?	Our current plan is for students to stay in their homerooms throughout the entire dismissal process. A non-homeroom teacher will call names to a designated area for each grade level. Students will be dismissed at the end of their hallways. Older sibling(s) of younger students will be dismissed to sit outside of their younger student's classroom until their names are called.
*16.	Will I get a chance to meet my student's teacher?	All Kindergarten students will be invited to their child's classroom on September 3rd . The teacher will organize a schedule allowing no more than 5 students at a time to come to the classroom and meet the teacher. This will allow parents/guardians and students to tour the school. No siblings or other family members, please. All NEW students to Midway will be invited by their child's teacher to meet in person on September 3rd. Depending on the number of new students, teachers will schedule appointments throughout the day. Masks will be required for everyone entering the building. *Only parents/guardians and student will be allowed at this time, to minimize the number of people in the building, maximizing social distancing.
**17.	Will I be able to walk my child in on the first day of school?	We are working on a plan for kindergarten parents/guardians to walk their child to the outside door of their classroom on the first day of school only. Staff members will greet other grade level students at the main doors the first couple days of school in order to help students find their classrooms or holding areas.

18.	How will I meet the teacher?	All teachers will create a video introducing themselves and give a virtual tour of their classroom and procedures. If a parent would like to schedule a conference with the teacher, it will need to be a virtual conference.
19.	Will my student receive the resources that are currently in their IEPs or 504s?	Yes. Students will still be pulled for resource, speech, and other services. Teachers and staff will create a schedule to pull students at different times of the day. Students may mix with other classes, but teachers will distance the students in the room and meet with students individually throughout the time period. Classrooms where these services are provided will be sanitized after each group of students.
*20.	Will GT students receive services this year? Will GT students receive services if they are enrolled in the Virtual Academy?	GT services will be provided to both face to face and A5 Virtual Academy students. GT teachers will “push in” to each classroom and work in a small group with GT students.
21.	Will I be able to eat lunch with my student this year?	No visitors will be allowed in the building or outside to eat during the school day. Parents may come to the front office to pick up students early or sign students in late.
22.	Will I be allowed to drop off lunch from a restaurant for my student this school year?	No outside food will be allowed this year. Please do not pick up food and ask it to be sent to the lunchroom for your student. It will not be allowed. Students are only allowed to bring personal lunches and snacks; no purchased or homemade snacks can be shared with others. This includes Friday Fun Snacks and birthday treats.
**23.	How will we know who my child’s teacher will be?	An email was sent out to all parents on July 30th that directs parents to pay their fees online. If you need your child’s link resent, please email Donna Anderson at <a href="mailto:DonnaAnderson@anderson5.net">DonnaAnderson@anderson5.net</a>

		<p>The total cost will be \$38 (\$20 technology fee, \$15 material fee, \$3 credit card charge) for students who pay a full price at lunch. The cost will be \$25.80 (\$20 technology fee, \$2.80 material fee, \$3 credit card charge) for students who pay a reduced price at lunch. The cost will be \$23 (\$20 technology fee, \$0 material fee, \$3 credit card charge) for students who receive free lunch.</p> <p>Once we receive a receipt of payment, we will email you the name of your child's teacher, a link to order a class t-shirt, and a link to join the PTO by August 18th.</p>
24.	Are students attending any Field Trips?	Field Trips have been suspended until after Spring Break. We will make a determination about field trips closer to that time.
25.	Will students have classroom parties?	Classroom parties will be suspended until further notice.
**26.	Will after school clubs take place?	All fall after school clubs for Midway will be suspended. I will make a decision on spring clubs at a later time. <u>The YMCA After Program will continue this school year beginning on September 8th.</u>
27.	If a staff member is absent, will a substitute cover the class?	Substitutes will be allowed to cover the class. If a substitute is not available, someone from the staff will cover the class. Classes will not be split.
28.	What happens if my student wakes up with a minor complaint or symptom?	Please keep your student at home. If students have any symptoms or complaints (headaches, stomach aches, complaining that they do not feel well), they will be sent home immediately. It is imperative that all symptoms are taken seriously this year and we all work together to make sure our school is safe for everyone. Once your student is symptom free, they may return to school with a note from the parent stating they were sick. The absence will be excused.

**29.	Will the school provide masks to students or staff members?	Staff members are provided six masks per person. We will have disposable masks available for substitutes if needed. The district is providing at least two cloth masks per student. We plan to add masks and lanyards to the Midway store where class t-shirts will be available. Students are welcome to bring their own mask as long as it meets dress code (ex. Inappropriate words or images)
**30.	Will students be allowed to drink from the water fountain?	Students will not be allowed to use water fountains. They are allowed to bring non-glass water bottles that do not leak. The district is currently planning to install touchless water bottle refill stations in all schools.
**31.	What materials should I provide for my student?	Since students will not be allowed to share materials, it would be helpful if each student had a pencil box to house their supplies. Please refer to the supply list and make sure that each student has earbuds(3-5)/headphones(K-2) as they will not be allowed to borrow or share. You may want to consider purchasing additional items that are not on your grade level lists that might typically be shared so that your student has their own. (ex. Scissors, colored pencil, etc.) <a href="#">District Supply List</a>
32.	Will my student still participate in Safety Patrol?	Safety Patrol will be suspended during the fall. A decision will be made about the spring.
33.	Will the school still have musical performances, Morning STEAM, etc.?	At this time, all mass gatherings are suspended until further notice.