



# SUMTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

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October 9, 2020

Dear Sumter School District Families:

Thank you again for your patience and resilience as we continue to transition to hybrid instruction. We have monitored the data from DHEC and consulted with the South Carolina Department of Education. As a result, Phase Two of hybrid instruction, which includes second grade, third grade, sixth grade, and high school cohort one (last names A-L only), will begin **Monday, October 26, 2020**.

The next phases are contingent upon the data in terms of rate of positivity, as well as other factors such as staffing availability within our schools. Phase Three is tentatively scheduled to begin Thursday, November 5, 2020, and includes fourth grade, fifth grade, seventh grade, and high school cohort two (last names M-Z only). Phase Four is tentatively scheduled to begin Thursday, November 12, 2020, and includes eighth grade and high school cohorts one and two.

Please note, parents have the option for their children to remain virtual for the entire semester. 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.

Schools will provide families with additional information regarding class assignments and bus schedules. As a reminder, through the hybrid model Group A will receive face-to-face instruction on Mondays and Thursdays and synchronous instruction on Tuesdays and Fridays, which means they will participate live from home. Group B will receive face-to-face instruction on Tuesdays and Fridays and synchronous instruction on Mondays and Thursdays, which means they will participate live from home. Students will continue to learn asynchronously, which means independently through prerecorded lessons, on Wednesdays in order for schools to provide professional development for staff and deep clean facilities.

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 remain appreciative for the leadership demonstrated by our principals, teachers, and school staff. I am equally grateful for the patience and support demonstrated by our parents. We are stronger together!

For the Children,

Dr. Penelope E. Martin-Knox  
Superintendent

*Vision - Sumter School District will educate all students to embrace diversity, act responsibly, and contribute positively in a competitive, global society.*

*Mission - The mission of Sumter School District is to equip students to be responsible, successful, and productive citizens in a global society.*

*Sumter School District is an equal opportunity employer.*