



Willow Drive Elementary School

SUMTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

26 Willow Drive • Sumter, South Carolina 29150 • (T) 803.773.5796 • (F) 803.778.2847

Dear Willow Drive Families:

Thank you for your patience, understanding, and flexibility over the past three weeks as we worked diligently to deliver quality instruction in a virtual capacity. One of the most important aspects of a child's life is education, and Willow Drive Elementary wants to ensure we provide appropriate, rigorous, and ongoing instruction. We also recognize that face-to-face instruction is vitally important to a student's social and academic growth.

After evaluating our data from DHEC and consulting with officials from the South Carolina Department of Education, Sumter School District will begin to phase in face-to-face instruction through a hybrid model. 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 as we continue to keep the safety of our students and staff at the forefront of every decision that is made. If you have not done so already, please complete the return to school survey, which is located in your child's Google Classroom.

English Language Learners (ELL) and students who receive special education services will begin hybrid instruction **Monday, September 28 (A-Day Students) or Tuesday, September 29 (B-Day Students)**. Pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, and first grade students will begin hybrid instruction **Thursday, October 1 (A-Day Students) or Friday, October 2 (B-Day Students)**. Through the hybrid model, Group A will receive face-to-face instruction on Mondays and Thursdays and virtual instruction on Tuesdays and Fridays. Group B will receive face-to-face instruction on Tuesdays and Fridays and virtual instruction on Mondays and Thursdays. Students will continue to learn asynchronously on Wednesdays in order for schools to provide professional development and deep clean facilities.

Please read carefully our new procedures for Hybrid Learning:

School Day: School hours are from 7:30 a.m. until 2:10 p.m. If you will be providing transportation for your child, please make a special note of these times. Students are not to be dropped off at school before 7:15 a.m. and must be picked up no later than 2:35 p.m.

Drop-off / Pick-up Procedures: Students are to be dropped off at the front drive on Willow Dr. or on the side drive through. Drop off and pick up for Kindergarten, 4th Grade, and 5th Grade will take place on the side drive. Enter the side drive-thru by



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turning left only from Bynum to Willow Drive. Please **do not attempt to enter the drive-thru by turning right from Willow Drive.**

Drop off and pick up for 1st grade, 2nd grade, and 3rd grade will take place at the front drive through. Cars should only enter the front drive-thru by turning **right off of Broad Street onto Willow Drive.**

Meals: Breakfast and lunch are free for all students. Students will eat breakfast and lunch in their classrooms.

School Visits: At this time we are only allowing necessary visitors and volunteers on the campus and are limiting the number of students and staff who come into contact with them.

Masks: Students and staff in South Carolina public schools must wear a face covering upon entering or exiting a school building, moving through hallways, and when social distancing is not possible or optimal. Student face coverings may be removed upon teacher or administrator direction while in the classrooms or during special activities outside the classroom. For more information, see page 21 in the district Virtual and Hybrid Learning Plan.

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, or food.

We will notify our families in a timely manner when Sumter School District begins phase two of our hybrid plan, which reintroduces our second and third grade students. Phase two is contingent upon the numbers in terms of rate of positivity, as well as other factors such as staffing availability within our schools. Thank you again for your patience and encouragement during this time. Together, we will ensure the success of all our students. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Preston Spratt
Principal