

Message from the Meadows

...a weekly update from Mrs. Battaglia

September 3, 2020

Hello South Meadows Families!

It was wonderful to see so many of you on Tuesday for materials pick up! I want to thank all of you for making it a joyful day. Our staff worked hard to make things as efficient as possible and I could not have been more proud of how the whole day went. Thank you too for joining us for Open House and for helping your kids through their first Zoom. I understand that there were still a few tech glitches; but we are hopeful that we can get everything worked out and cleared up for TUESDAY!!!

Yes, our official first day of virtual learning for the 20-21 school year happens **Tuesday, September 8th at 8:30 AM!** We are looking forward to seeing and working with our students. We once again ask for your support and patience as we get things kicked off:)

Here is our [SME Virtual Schedule](#) in case you need it again. **Important reminders: Specials' classes will not officially begin until **Monday, September 14th.** Our focus the first couple of weeks will be on relationship building and helping our students navigate their new school year and being a virtual learner. Fridays are an earlier end and opportunity for Asynchronous work for our students.

Clarification on Mask Message

I realize that the update that Mrs. Gillow and I sent out on Wednesday left some of you with questions. I want to expand upon why we sent the update. In discussions with our teaching staff as well as members of the Washtenaw County Health Department, we agreed that for the health and safety of students and staff it would be best to modify the amount of time our elementary students wear masks at school. As previously communicated, our students will still wear masks on the bus, for arrival and dismissal, in the hallways and common areas and while moving around the classroom. The adjustment made to our previous plan is that students will wear masks at their desks with the exception of mask breaks (including recess) built into the daily schedule as designated by the classroom teacher. Some classes/students will need more frequent mask breaks than others. This will be monitored and adjusted to meet the needs of our students.

It is important that we continue to keep in mind that recommendations will change as we progress through the year and we will need to be flexible with our plan. Currently, we have been advised by the Department of Health and Human Services that this is the safest plan for our students and staff.

Update from our District Food Service Department

Our food service department will be providing breakfasts and lunches to all students for free. The government has announced that they will be paying for all student meals effective immediately through December 2020 or until the funds run out. Please see the website for details.

I hope that all of you enjoy your Labor Day weekend...and though my heart is sad about not greeting all of our students in person Tuesday morning, I am excited for the start of another school year here at South Meadows! We will get through this, TOGETHER!

Stacie

