

Etowah Middle School



COVID-19 Reopening and Procedural Guide

*All guidelines and protocols are subject to change.

First Week of School

- Teacher Inservice begins August 6th
- Remote student orientation August 14th
- Student last names A-K: Attend August 17th
- Student last name L-Z: Attend August 18th
- Student last name A-K: Attend August 19th
- Student last name L-Z: Attend August 20
- Friday, August 21st will be a remote learning/ cleaning day, with students learning from home

First Week of School

- During the first week in the traditional setting, smaller classes will allow us to teach procedures, examine spacing in the classroom and during transitions, and disseminate information and guidelines to students in case we have to resort to a blended learning environment.
- Siblings with different last names that live in the same household may be allowed to attend on alternate days for parental convenience. Contact school to request this change.
- All students will take STAR test (Traditional and Remote.)

Traditional vs. Remote

- Traditional will be on campus every day. We will incorporate online learning lessons in person weekly to train teachers and students on the blended format in the event we have a forced closure during the school year or a student has to be quarantined due to illness or exposure.
- Remote students will be 100% online using the platform Schools PLP that has been provided by the ALSDE. All remote students are assigned a schedule and will receive support from a content level teacher when needs arise. Remote students will also have a teacher facilitator on site to monitor progress and ensure students are logging in and spending an ample amount of time on each course. EMS teachers are not expected to provide daily instruction to remote students.
- Students working from home in either remote setting or blended (closure) are expected to login daily/weekly. As needed, staff can provide Google Meets for strugglers on an as needed basis arranged by their facilitator.

Curriculum for Technology

- Schools PLP has been purchased for all schools in Alabama by the ALSDE. Attalla City Schools has chosen to use it as our online curriculum and platform.
- Teachers will align all pacing guides with Schools PLP's pacing guides to provide a smooth transition in the case that a student may return from remote learning to traditional learning or from traditional to remote at any grading period throughout the school year.
- Remote students are expected to work from home and keep up with assigned lessons in all subjects through the Schools PLP platform. The remote setting will be **CONSIDERABLY DIFFERENT** from last year in terms of grades and expectations for students.

Start of School Day for Traditional Students

- Buses will unload at EMS on the side next to the lunchroom (Same location as last year) at 7:15. Students that ride a bus and are eating breakfast will remain in the lunchroom and eat breakfast socially distanced. If a student rides the bus but does not eat breakfast, they will walk along the front of the school to the EMS gym and be seated socially distanced on both sides of the gym in the bleachers.
- Car riders will unload in the morning between the gym and the school starting at 7:15. Students eating breakfast will walk around the front of the school and enter the lunchroom and eat in the lunchroom following social distancing guidelines. Students not eating breakfast will enter the gym and be seated socially distanced on both sides of the gym in the bleachers.

Classroom set-up

- Classrooms will be set up in a manner to respect social distancing where building space allows.
- Lessons will minimize student interaction.
- Seats will face the same direction as much as possible.
- All classrooms will have seating charts.
- Any unnecessary items need to be removed in the classroom to allow more spacing.
- All students and staff will emphasize hand washing throughout the school day.

Instructional Practices

- STAR baseline testing will occur the first week of school to see where our students are academically and determine where gaps in learning are for all students.
- All students, traditional and remote, will have access to IXL learning and other resources to help fill any gaps from time off or to provide extension opportunities for all students.

Safety Protocols

- The SRO office will be EMS's designated quarantine area for any student exhibiting symptoms of illness.
- Any student sent to the nurse **MUST** have a nurse pass to avoid cross-traffic with possible infected person.
- Any student with a fever of 100.4 or higher will be sent home immediately. Parents are expected to check temperatures and symptoms at home before school.
- Face shields are provided for teachers who wish to wear shields. Other teachers will wear masks throughout the day.
- State guidelines will be followed concerning students wearing masks.

Restrooms/Water Fountains

- Students will be allowed to visit restrooms during class changes when lockers are visited. Restrooms will be supervised by staff and administration throughout the day.
- Restrooms will be cleaned and disinfected each morning prior to the start of school and will be disinfected multiple times throughout the day.
- Water fountains have been turned off. Students can bring personal water bottles as long as they have a lid and are clear.

Cafeteria

- Since the cafeteria must remain at 50% capacity, we will have to adjust lunch times. It is important to arrive and leave on time to avoid crowding hallways.
- All students will enter lunch through the interior lunchroom doors and exit through the front lunchroom doors (Weather Permitting.)
- We will alternate classes eating in the lunchroom and in class weekly. It is permissible to eat at the patio area if you are eating in the classroom but this will need to be arranged by the teachers and we must practice social distancing there as well.

Hallway Traffic/ Break

- Class changes will be staggered with the 6th grade moving first followed by the 7th and 8th grade moving to class. Teachers and staff must be in the hallway during class change and ensure that all students are on the right side of the hallway moving in a singular direction.
- We will have break during 2nd period. There will be a break cart visit your classroom during break selling snacks. During this time you will need to stop your class and allow for a 10 minute break.

Resource/Electives

- PE will happen as normal as possible with social distancing. We will not dress out for PE.
- Band, AG, JROTC, and other electives will take place as normal as possible.

Technology Upgrades

- We are now “1 to 1” in terms of Chromebooks in classrooms at school. Every classroom has a set of Chromebooks for classroom use without sharing. Our older carts, 3 and 4, are available for home checkout for remote students.
- A new wifi network is in place for ACS employees. This will allow easier access for sign-in with Frontline App
- We will have Renaissance (AR) and IXL available to all students.

Dismissal

- Dismissal will still all occur between the school and the gym. We will dismiss bus riders, athletes, and walkers first and hold car riders until the buses clear to avoid a crowded area in pick-up. When car riders are dismissed we will spread students out the entire length of the sidewalk on the side of the building to practice social distancing as much as possible as we load cars.