



1008 Pierce Street, Tupelo, MS 38801 ● Phone: 662-841-8940 ● Fax: 662-841-8959

Amy P. Tate, Principal

Katie Coon, Assistant Principal

Sheila Kelly, Counselor

July 15, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The Pierce Street staff and I are looking forward to our students returning for another school year together! While the year ahead will most certainly look a little different from previous years, we are committed to making this one an exciting year full of joy and one to result in precious memories for your child. At PSE, we are cognizant of the important role school plays in your child's happiness and quality of life. We take this responsibility very seriously. Our goal at Pierce Street continues to be to create an environment for all students where they can thrive, learn and grow while keeping our students, staff and entire school community as safe as possible. Please know we have taken many measures to make this a reality and will work diligently to care for your child as we would our own. In order to move forward with our commitment amid the COVID-19 pandemic, there will be some changes to our school day to aid us in providing a quality learning environment for our school community. Some specifics are outlined below:

- Our instructional school day will be 8:15 a.m. until 2:15 p.m.
- Arrival --Doors will open to receive students at 7:30 a.m. and they will report directly to their classrooms with their designated teacher. Students will have the opportunity to pick up breakfast on their way to their homeroom class.
- Dismissal --Students will depart using various exits on campus beginning at 2:15 p.m. This early release time is necessary to accommodate multiple routes for our buses and for our staff to carry out additional cleaning steps enabling our students to have the engaging learning opportunities necessary for age appropriate development.
- All school supplies will be provided for all students. Students will have individual bags/boxes of supplies, manipulatives, books, etc.
- Students may bring backpacks, lunchboxes, and purses.
- Students will remain with their homeroom class for the entire school day. Teachers will change classes in order to provide instruction to various groups. Students, however, will remain in the same classroom with the same grouping of children to limit exposure during the instructional day. Challenge classes will remain intact as we are accustomed and will be pulled out of the regular classroom on their designated day/time.
- All special services will still be offered to students who qualify for those supports such as special education, English Learner interventions and Tier II and Tier III support.
- Teachers will determine individual learning gaps in August. Interventions and extra support will be planned for students as needed to close any learning gaps. Those needing additional academic and behavior support will be provided Tier II or Tier III services based on identified needs.


- Breakfast and lunch will be provided by the cafeteria staff. Students will eat their meals in the classroom.
- PSE will be a peanut/nut free school again this year. Please help us by voluntarily adhering to the following food allergy safety guidelines.
 - Please do not send any food items to be eaten as snacks in our classrooms with ingredient labels indicating they contain peanuts or nuts.
 - Please do not send any food items with ingredient labels indicating they were manufactured in a factory that processes nuts. Example: Hershey's plain chocolates and certain jelly beans.
- Guests will not be permitted to join students or staff on campus during the instructional day in order for us to promote the healthiest environment possible for our students and staff.
- Handwashing and sanitization will be a significant focus as we assist students in learning and practicing healthy habits throughout the school day.
- Activity classes (Art, Music, PE, Media & Technology) will continue to be offered to students on a rotational basis. Students will travel to the activity classroom. These classrooms will be sanitized between classes.
- Recess is also included as a part of our students' daily schedule with one class at a time on the playground or designated play area at a time.
- Movement throughout the building has been carefully planned to avoid masses of students being in the hallway at any given time.
- PSE has employed a full-time nurse who will serve our students for the entire day, Monday-Friday.
- As outlined in the Tupelo Public School District Blueprint for Reopening School 2020-2021 School Year, <https://t.co/DaPKvWWtjS>, students and staff will be expected to wear a mask during small group instruction and expected to wear a mask when they are not able to practice social distancing. Students will be expected to wear their mask during arrival, dismissal, bus routes, and while moving throughout the building.
- A face covering will be provided by the district; however, if you want to provide one for your child, you are welcome to do that as well.
- Intermittent closures are addressed in the Blueprint. Due to possible outbreaks, the superintendent may be required to close a school or schools to prevent further spread. Students will receive instruction online during these closures.
- Distance learning is an option provided to K-12 students in our district for the upcoming school year. If chosen by families as the learning option, this would be a commitment that would extend for the **entire semester**. Please note, we will welcome students to join us at the start of Semester 2 (January) should that be requested by parents. **For those choosing the Distance Learning option, the deadline to register is July 17, 2020.**
- Students participating in distance learning would be assigned a teacher who would assist in providing standards-based instruction, feedback for assignments, and continuous communication with students and parents for this selected method of learning. This method of learning would still require students to be accountable for logging into the students' instructional day with regular attendance as well as meet the grade level criteria for him/her to be promoted to the next grade level.

- The number of visitors in the school's main office will be limited. Some visitors will be asked to wait outside from time-to-time to protect all families and guests. When visiting, please wear a mask. You are welcome to call the office for assistance prior to entering the building.
- As a safety precaution parents **will not be allowed to enter the building or to walk their child to their classroom on the first day(s) of school**. Your child will be enthusiastically welcomed by staff members and escorted to their new classrooms. Please rest assured that we will work diligently to calm any first day jitters!
- Each child will have his or her own desk in the classroom, activity classes, and challenge classrooms. If seated at a table, children will be at appropriately spaced. Teachers will set up classrooms with social distancing in mind.
- Daily schedules are posted online at www.tupeloschools.com if you would like a more in-depth look at the school day.

There will be joy and fun in our day! We will work tirelessly to make Pierce Street Elementary a place of joy for all children.

At PSE, our teachers, staff and I are ready to welcome your child to school! It is our desire for experiences at Pierce Street to be those that will encourage, inspire, and motivate your child to be the very best he or she can be. We believe it takes a partnership with our parents, families, and community to make this happen. Our goals of helping students demonstrate being responsible, respectful, resourceful, and safe each and every day will not waiver. The changes in our day-to-day procedures for this year align with the guidance provided by CDC, our community healthcare professionals, as well as our district leadership to give you and your child the very best opportunity for safety and wellness. We look forward to your continued partnership and support in making the 2020-2021 school year one that affords your child solid educational experiences at PSE.

More information will be forthcoming and some information may change based on needs and guidelines at the time. If you should have any additional questions or concerns during this registration process, please do not hesitate to call our main office at 841-8940. We are always glad to help.

Sincerely,

Amy P. Tate, Ph.D.
Principal