

Somers Middle School

Student Handbook

Covid 19 Addendum



In light of the COVID-19 pandemic and the SCSD commitment to the safety and well-being of its students, faculty, staff, and other members of the community, SMS has created this COVID-19 Addendum to the Student Handbook.

This addendum includes policies that are intended to be temporary because we are hopeful that once the pandemic is over, we will be able to return to a campus environment that will not necessitate these policies. That said, we are unable to predict how long these policies will be in effect. As with other policies in the Handbook, SMS reserves the right to amend or remove these policies as circumstances warrant.

As a reminder, even if SMS transitions to a remote learning environment, our Handbook policies that cover how students behave toward each other, faculty, and staff are still in effect. In particular, adhering to the SCSD's responsible use of technology policy is as important as ever.

Above all else, SMS is grateful for the cooperation and collaboration of our families. Together, we will do our best to maintain our close-knit community, whether we are working on or off campus to educate our students.

Please click on the link below to review the [SCSD School District Reentry Plan](#)

Masks

- Masks must be worn at all times while in school and on the bus except when eating in the cafeteria. Teachers will give mask breaks in class and/or outside when social distance is ensured. An example of a proper mask break while seated at one's desk would be a 5 minute silent reading break. **Any student who does not adhere to this policy will be referred to Administration and/or Dean of Students.**
- Extra masks will be available in the main office and nurse's office for students who break, lose or forget their masks.
- As per recent Health Department guidelines, bandanas, handkerchiefs, and gaiters are not acceptable face coverings. Face masks with the adjustable valves are also not allowed.

Health and Safety

- Families will be expected to complete a digital health questionnaire daily before sending their child to school. The completion of this process will be reviewed by the school nurse and SMS admin.
- Students must maintain 6ft. of distance from each other and staff members at all times. Signs and floor markings will be present around the school as reminders.
- Hand Sanitizing stations are now placed throughout the school. Students may sanitize their hands when entering the building. Signage has been added to bathrooms to encourage good hand hygiene.
- Stairwells will accommodate one-way traffic to limit the number of people in each space at a given time. Please see the labeled building map for hallway traffic paths.
- Signage has been placed throughout the building and in bathrooms to encourage proper hand hygiene.
- Any student not feeling well during the school day should tell their teacher or another adult. The nurse will be contacted and will determine if the student should report to the nurse's office or Isolation room.

Arrival:

Students who take the bus:

- will adhere to social distancing protocols with siblings sitting together
- will wear protective masks while riding to and from school (if a student forgets a mask one will be provided by the driver)
- playdates and the riding of other buses will be prohibited to ensure every child has a socially distanced seat
- Students will exit buses in a staggered manner and enter SMS through various entry points

Students who are dropped off at SMS:

- Students should not be dropped off before 7:30 am.
- Drop off in the morning will be in the lot between SIS and SMS. We anticipate an increase in traffic on campus so please give yourself enough time in the morning. Students should be dropped off by 8:20 as first period begins at 8:25.
- Students arriving early will report to the cafeteria.

Dismissal:

- Dismissal will begin at **2:20**. Students will be called for dismissal as their busses arrive on campus.
- Students will report to parent pick up when the bus they would typically ride is called for dismissal. This will allow us to stagger dismissal and keep hallways from becoming overcrowded at the end of the day.

Lunch and Recess

- Lunch will be available for purchase in the cafeteria. Please make sure students know their lunch code if they plan on buying lunch. All purchased lunches will be in a “grab and go” style.
- Students will be allowed to remove their masks while seated and eating in the cafeteria. Students will be seated at individual desks arranged 6ft apart to ensure social distancing.
- During recess students may remove masks when they are outside and are adhering to 6ft social distancing. There will be no sharing of equipment during recess.

SMS Building Procedures:

- Students will not have lockers this year. They will be able to carry backpacks.
- Cell phones must remain off and put away during the school day. Students will be allowed to use their cell phones starting at 2:20.
- Students will be expected to follow hallway traffic patterns and remain socially distant when traveling the halls. Social distance markings have been placed on the floors for reference.

Attendance:

- Students are expected to attend school when scheduled either in person or virtually
- eLearning students are expected to log in to their classes via Zoom at the allotted times
- To report an absence, you may either
 - email smsattendance@somersschools.org or call 914.277.3399 x 3003.

If you choose the email option, this will also serve as a valid absence note.

Instructional Expectations:

- Students will be expected to bring their tablet to school each day. Please be sure to charge tablets each night. Students should bring their chargers to school each day.
- Technology support will be available through the Gear Shack by appointment to make an appoint complete the request at this [SMS Gear Shack Appointment Request](#)
- Students are fully responsible for their actions while using computers or the network. If a student is using an electronic device in a manner that is disruptive to the educational process, they will be referred to SMS Administration.

- Students will manage their classes and learning assignments through Schoology and their grades and schedules through Infinite Campus.

Student Expectation and Discipline Reminder:

As a reminder the above Covid addendums are in addition to the SMS Student Handbook 2020 -2021 addition. Discipline will follow the Restorative Approach and the levels of discipline as referenced in the main handbook.

“Somers Middle School is committed to Restorative Approaches as an integral component of progressive discipline. Restorative Approaches can be used both as prevention and intervention measures. The most critical function of Restorative Practices is restoring and building relationships.”