

**Southland College Prep Charter High School**  
**Back to In-Person Learning**  
**Parents' Guide and F.A.Q.**

**Updated**

*As January 12, 2021*

Dear Parents/Guardians:

We appreciate your patience as we work through the details of this important reopening of school to in-person instruction. We continue to receive new guidance almost daily from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). As new guidance is released we are constantly reviewing Southland's plan to be sure we are doing everything possible to keep all students and staff safe and to provide an effective and meaningful learning experience for your child. Southland has a robust plan in place to provide in-person instruction for your child as soon as possible.

However, it is important to understand that the situation is very fluid and circumstances may require that a classroom, a school building, or the district may need to return to full remote learning for a specific period of time. The procedure for responding to an outbreak of COVID-19 is addressed in the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section of this guide.

Southland will be utilizing a hybrid in-person learning plan. The hybrid plan calls for approximately one-half of the students to be in the building at any given time in order to allow for proper social distancing, whenever possible. To make this plan work Southland is assigning students to one of two groups, Group A (generally students whose last names begin with letters A-K) and Group B (generally students whose last names begin with letters L-Z). Group A students will attend school in-person for normal hours on Mondays and Wednesdays while watching a broadcast of their classroom on a school-issued iPad or Chromebook at home on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Group B students will attend school in-person on Tuesdays and Thursdays while watching a broadcast of their classroom on a school-issued iPad or Chromebook at home on Mondays and Wednesdays. All students will participate in learning remotely from home on Fridays to allow custodians to deep clean and sanitize the building. Instruction on Fridays will end at 3:00 p.m. Note that whenever there are students from the same household with different last names, Southland will assign them to the same group so that students from the same household attend school in-person on the same days.

In addition parents have the option to keep their child home to participate in remote learning five days per week. This election can be made at the beginning of each quarter.

<b>GROUP</b>	<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>
A (A-K)	In-Person	Remote	In-Person	Remote	Remote
B (L-Z)	Remote	In-Person	Remote	In-Person	Remote

Parents made an election of remote vs. hybrid in-person learning at the end of September for the 1<sup>st</sup> Semester assuming the option of in-person instruction was going to be available at that time. Those choices have been kept in place for the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester unless parents notified Southland of a change by December 22, 2020. Parent can opt for remote instruction at any time.

For those students attending school in-person the following procedures will apply:

- The use of face masks will be required at all times on buses or inside the school building except while eating during breakfast and lunch periods. Face masks can be removed when outdoors if socially distanced by six feet or more.
- Social distancing must be maintained to the extent possible.
- No more than 50 people may be gathered in one location.
- Buses will be routed to allow one student per seat (two students in the same seat are allowed if from the same household).
- Students will have their temperatures taken by staff prior to entering the school building each day.
- Students will be required to self-certify daily to confirm that they are free of COVID-19 symptoms, are not suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 and have not been exposed to someone who is confirmed or suspected of having COVID-19 in the past 14 days.
- Any student who is exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19 must stay home. Symptoms include: a fever of 100.4 or greater, chills, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headaches, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, diarrhea, congestion or runny nose, nausea, or vomiting.
- Additional custodial staff will be on-duty in the building to provide increased cleaning and sanitization throughout the day and after school.
- Food deliveries at school will not be allowed.
- Visitors and volunteers will not be allowed in the school building.
- Hand sanitizers are placed in every classroom and students will be reminded to wash their hands several times throughout the day.
- Students will utilize a hand sanitizing disinfectant wipe to wipe their desk at the conclusion of each period.
- Students will be required to sit in the same seat each day according to a seating chart established by the teacher.
- All students will receive at least 5 clock hours of instruction regardless of the location where learning takes place. Instruction can be via classroom broadcast, video lessons, or remote work.

Below is a list of Frequently Asked Questions from parents. This document will be updated as more questions arise and new information is available.

### LOGISTICAL QUESTIONS

1. Will Southland provide facemasks for students? What if my child forgets to bring a facemask to school? On the first day of in-person learning for each student group, all students will be issued a washable and reusable facemask to wear. Students are not required to wear these particular masks but must come to school with an appropriate fitting mask each day. If any student forgets to bring a facemask to school Southland will provide a disposable mask for the student to wear that day.
2. Will students need to wear facemasks for Physical Education class? Per ISBE guidelines all students must wear a facemask inside the school building except when consuming breakfast or lunch. School personnel will make every effort to provide outside activities when possible (and weather permitting) in order to allow for facemask breaks as long as students are socially distanced.
3. How many students are assigned to each classroom? There is no set number of students assigned to a classroom but classrooms will be scheduled and arranged to provide as much space as possible between students.
4. Will breakfast and lunch be provided for my child if I do not elect in-person learning? The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has extended its Seamless Summer Food Program until June 2021. This program allows Southland to provide free meals to ALL children in the community whether they are in school or learning remotely from home. Southland will make breakfasts and lunches available at the building for parents to pick-up.
5. Will there be any after-school activities or sports? As of now there will be no after-school activities.
6. Where will breakfast and lunch be eaten? Breakfast and lunch will both be consumed in the Commons and other locations in the building as necessary. At no time will there be more than 50 people in any one location. Students will be seated six feet apart, facing the same direction in areas where food will be consumed.
7. Will school hours be the same as in the regular school year? The school hours Monday through Thursday changed effective October 26, 2020. New school hours are 7:45 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday until further notice.
8. When is the first day of school and will the calendar be changing? The first day of in-person learning is scheduled for Tuesday, January 19, 2021. Southland will continue to monitor information provided by the Illinois State Board of Education, the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Governors' Office to determine when is safe to begin or return to the hybrid in-person model. Regardless of health metrics, the district made the decision to hold remote instruction only for all students from Tuesday, January 5, 2021 through at least Friday, January 15, 2021.

## TECHNOLOGY QUESTIONS

1. Will students leave their Chromebooks/iPads at school? Students will bring their fully charged Chromebooks and iPads to and from school to allow them to be used both in the classroom and for remote instruction.
2. What if we do not have adequate internet access at home? Southland is partnering with T-Mobile to provide “hot spot” internet connectivity for those families that do not already have reliable internet connection in their homes for remote learning. Requests for hotspots can be made by sending an email to [hotspot@sd162.org](mailto:hotspot@sd162.org).
3. Will the Chromebooks/iPads be monitored and filtered for inappropriate content? Yes, all devices are compliant with the Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA). All devices have software installed that will monitor usage and not allow inappropriate content whether being used on the district’s network or remotely at home.
4. What happens if my child’s device is damaged? Southland has purchased accidental damage protection that covers the repair or replacement of one device per person. Any additional repairs or replacements will need to be paid by the parent or guardian.

## HEALTH QUESTIONS

1. How will students “self-certify” their health each day? Southland staff and students will be required to complete a short paper survey each morning before arriving to the school building. The survey must be presented upon entry to the building each day. Students will not be allowed to go to class until the form is completed. Students will receive one form in the packet e-mailed to them prior to returning to in-person instruction. On the first day of in-person school, each student will receive a pad of 25 self-certification health questionnaires to use. Additional pads will be distributed as needed.
2. What if my child has a medical reason for not being able to wear a mask at school? The ISBE and IDPH have made clear that masks must be worn at all times in the school building except during breakfast and lunch unless there is a documented medical reason for the child not to wear one. If your child has a medical condition that makes it not feasible for your child to wear a face mask at school and that can be documented by a physician, please contact the Director of Operations for further guidance and options.
3. What if my child arrives to school without a completed, signed Self-Certification form? Students who arrive without this form will not be allowed to go to class until the form is completed.
4. Does Southland have a nurse on staff in the building? Yes, a full-time nurse is on duty during the school day.
5. What happens if a student develops symptoms consistent with COVID-19 while at school? Consistent with ISBE and IDPH guidance, Southland will have a separate room

available to isolate any student who develops or exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 until a parent or guardian arrives to take the child home.

6. What happens if a student or staff member is suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19? Who will be notified? Within the school environment, any individual who shows symptoms of COVID-19 will be immediately separated from the rest of the school population. A room has been identified in the building for this purpose.

Individuals who are sick will be sent home. If emergency services are necessary, staff will call 911. When interacting with students or staff who may be sick, the school nurses will follow IDPH guidance on standard and transmission-based precautions such as wearing a face mask, gloves and protective eyewear or face shield.

If a student or staff member is confirmed or suspected of having COVID-19, any identified close contacts of that person will be notified and given further instructions.

Southland will follow the detailed Student and Staff protocols for handling COVID-19 exposure and illnesses. These can be found in Appendix 2 and 3 of the Southland College Prep Charter High School and Matteson School District #162 2020-2021 reopening plan.

7. Once started, will the hybrid in-person model continue for the full school year? Southland will monitor regional and local COVID-19 infection rates weekly in coordination with the IDPH. The decision to move to all Remote Learning will be based upon the infection rate of our local community and other factors as recommended by the Illinois Department of Public Health.

## ACADEMIC QUESTIONS

1. How will students in the hybrid learning program or the remote program learn on remote days? All students who are at home and learning remotely will view a live stream of their child's classes utilizing the program Google Meet Monday through Thursday. On Fridays more targeted on-line instruction will take place. Google Meet allows students to provide feedback and ask questions to teachers in real-time. Students who elect the remote only learning option will receive training on Google Meet prior to the start of the school year. All hybrid in-person students will receive training on Google Meet on their first day of in-person learning.
2. Can my child still participate in band, dance or choir? Students will have the option to participate in band, dance or choir as always. However, special guidelines exist for these options. Students who elect to join band, dance or choir will receive additional information regarding special guidelines and safety procedures for those classes:
  - a. Directors will:
    - i. Provide virtual learning opportunities or record class rehearsals and share recordings with students who are unable to attend school in-person.



- ix. During Marching Band Practices on Saturday, the students will be split up, and rehearse in different areas of the school (including outside) to maintain social distancing, and adhere to the Phase Four mandate of no more than fifty persons in the same room.
- d. Dance
- i. As per ISBE & IDPH Guidelines students in Dance are encouraged to practice outside when possible. However due to the upcoming change in climate weather conditions, this may not always be possible.
  - ii. If weather permits, students may go outside for dance class and remove their masks provided they are practicing safe social distancing by staying six feet apart.
  - iii. Dancers will maintain social distancing protocols by remaining 6 feet apart.
  - iv. Dancers will be allowed a mask break, as long as it is feasible to take the break outside of the facility, while maintaining 6 feet apart, and under the supervision of the instructor
  - v. There will be no Pair Dances
  - vi. There will be no Tight Group Formations
  - vii. There will be no touching of other dancers
  - viii. As with the P.E. Classes, the lockers are off limits to the Dance Troupe as well
  - ix. Dancers will be allowed to change the footwear (inside the dance hall) only
  - x. All students shall bring their own water bottle. Water bottles must not be shared.
3. Will attendance be taken during remote days? Yes, the Illinois State Board of Education requires that attendance is taken for each day of school regardless if that school day is held remotely or in-person. Each teacher will take attendance via the Google Meet program each day. Attendance and participation in class each day, whether remote or in-person, is expected. For students in hybrid mode, remote participation and attendance can occur even if they are scheduled for in-person attendance.
4. Will students continue to receive grades as in the past? The rules developed by ISBE in the spring of 2020 which required that student grades should not go down during remote learning no longer apply in the 2020-2021 school year. Students will receive grades as they have during the normal school year.
5. My child has special needs, how will his or her I.E.P. services be delivered? Southland will comply with all I.E.P. services. The special education department will be contacting parents to discuss any suggested adjustments to I.E.P.s.