

**Southland College Prep Charter High School**  
**Back-To-School Fall 2020**  
**Parents' Guide and F.A.Q.**

*As of August 4, 2020*

Dear Parents/Guardians:

We appreciate your patience as we work through the details of this important opening of school this August. 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 beginning this fall. However, it is important to understand that the situation is very fluid and, at any time, the Governor could order schools to go back to full-remote learning.

Southland is utilizing a hybrid in-person learning plan for this fall. 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. 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.

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

Parents must go to the Southland website or follow the links in the email sent to all parents on Friday, July 24<sup>th</sup> to make their election of remote learning vs. hybrid in-person learning for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter. **Note that ALL students must also register for the 2020-2021 school year regardless if the choice is for hybrid in-person or remote learning.** Students who do not register for the 2020-2021 school year will not be issued a Chromebook/iPad or have access to the online learning program. Parents with questions regarding registration should call 708-748-8105.

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 school buildings except 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.
- District 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.
- Parents will be required to self-certify daily that their child is free of COVID-19 symptoms, is not suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 and has not been exposed to someone who is confirmed or suspected of having COVID-19 in the past 14 days.
- Any child who is exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19 must stay home. Symptoms include: a fever of 100.4 or greater, chills, muscle aches, headaches, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, or diarrhea.
- 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.
- Frequent hand-washing breaks will take place throughout the day.
- All Freshmen will receive a school-issued Chromebook and all other students school-issued iPad for remote learning. Wireless “hot spot” connection devices will be available for those without internet access at home.

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? One 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 a CDC approved mask each day. If any child forgets to bring a facemask to school Southland will provide a disposable mask for the child 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 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. When will parents receive their child's hybrid learning group assignment, teacher assignment, bus route information, free/reduced lunch forms and fee waiver applications? All class and bus assignments, hybrid learning assignments and applicable forms will be made available the week of August 17<sup>th</sup>. Parents can assume that their child's Group A or Group B hybrid assignment will be based on their last name as noted above. However, parents/guardians that have students with different last names in the same household may contact the school to obtain their hybrid learning group assignment if they need to know that information prior to early August.
5. Will there be any after-school activities or sports? As of now there will be no after-school activities. Southland is still awaiting a decision from the I.H.S.A. regarding fall sports.
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 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 will be the same as the regular school year (7:45 a.m. – 4:37 p.m.). The school hours for the remote Friday's will be 7:45 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
8. When is the first day of school and will the calendar be changing? The calendar will be changing to allow extra time for teachers and administration to prepare for the opening. The first day of school will be Monday, August 24, 2020 with Group A attending in-person and Group B and all remote learners participating from home via e-learning. Tuesday, August 25, 2020 will be the first day for Group B students to attend in-person. Group A students and all remote learners will participate from home via e-learning on that day. An updated calendar is available on the Southland website ([www.scphs.org](http://www.scphs.org)).

## TECHNOLOGY QUESTIONS

1. Will students leave their Chromebooks/iPads at school? Students will bring their 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.
3. I have more than one student at Southland. Will each student receive his/her own device or will students need to share a device? All students will receive their own device. No devices will be shared
4. Will the Chromebooks/iPads be monitored and filtered for inappropriate content? Yes, all devices will be compliant with the Children’s Internet Protection Act\_(CIPA). All devices will have software installed that will monitor usage and not allow inappropriate content whether being used on the district’s network or remotely at home.

## HEALTH QUESTIONS

1. How will parents “self-certify” their child’s health each day? Southland is evaluating a few different possibilities to accomplish this and will be making more information available as the school year gets closer
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. Does Southland have a nurse on staff in the building? Yes, a full-time nurse is on duty during the school day.
4. What happens if a child 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.
5. What happens if a child or staff member is suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19? Will the school be closed? 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, school nurses and personnel will follow IDPH guidance on standard and transmission-based precautions such as wearing face masks, gloves and protective eyewear or face shields.

Additionally, those with close contact with someone with symptoms (close contact is defined as within less than 6 feet for more than 15 minutes) will be instructed to isolate at home and monitor for symptoms and self-quarantine for 14 days. Rooms used by the sick individual will not be used and will be sanitized daily for seven days.

Students or staff returning from a COVID-19 related illness must bring a doctor statement declaring that they are COVID-19 free to the Director of Operations following quarantine in order to be allowed back into the building.

If a student is confirmed or suspected of COVID-19 all parents of students in that class or riding the bus with that person will be notified. Southland is not allowed to identify the name of the student or staff member that is suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19.

### 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. If I elect for my child to receive full-time remote learning will the student be given textbooks or other learning tools? Several Southland curricula are online without a textbook and will be preloaded on the child's district-issued Chromebook/iPad. Students whose classes utilize physical textbooks will receive them prior to the first day of school.
3. 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.
    - ii. Will incorporate virtual small groups or one to one lessons with students when needed.
    - iii. Will face students from more than 10 feet away from the first row of singers/band/string/dance members.
    - iv. Will wear glasses/goggles or a face shield.
  - b. Choirs
    - i. As per ISBE & I.D.H.S. Guidelines students in choir are not allowed to practice in an in-closed area. However due to the upcoming in climate weather conditions, the choir program is anticipating purchasing a

specialized performance mask for Broadway Singers known as the “Singer’s Mask”. This mask must be worn at all times when practicing singing.

- ii.* Choirs will practice in small groups with a minimum of six feet (social distancing) between them in a single file line facing the same direction.
- iii.* Traditionally the choir sings while performing choreographed movements. Choreography will be scaled down dramatically.
- iv.* Where possible, all choir rehearsals will take place outside in a designated open area.
- v.* No student will be allowed to sing inside the Choir Room unmasked.

c. Bands/Strings

- i.* As per ISBE & I.D.H.S. Guidelines students in Band or Orchestra are encouraged to practice outside when possible. However due to the upcoming change in climate weather conditions, this may not always be possible.
- ii.* Due to the size of the Performing Arts Center, the Band and String classes will be able to rehearse in small groups while maintaining social distancing.
- iii.* Marching Band students will wear face masks avoid touching, choreography, and playing in tight groups.
- iv.* Students will sanitize their hands prior to handling instruments and departing the class.
- v.* There will be no Instrument sharing.
- vi.* At no time will Percussion and String students be allowed to remove their masks.
- vii.* Where possible students are to provide their own equipment for class; sharing of equipment between students is prohibited. This includes, reeds, mouthpieces, and percussion mallets and sticks.
- viii.* Students should disinfect musical instruments between classes. Information on to how to disinfect a musical instrument will be given by the Director.
- 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 & I.D.H.S. 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.
4. 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.
5. Will students continue to receive grades as in the past? The rules developed by ISBE in the spring which required that student grades should not go down during remote learning no longer apply in the fall. Students will receive grades as they have during the normal school year.
6. What is the plan to catch-up on academics that may not have been mastered during the closure of schools last spring? Southland will be assessing all students when they return to school in the fall to determine what remediation may be needed.
7. 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.