

Arnall Middle School



2020 Reopening of Coweta Schools - Updated October 14, 2020

Your child's health and safety has been and will continue to be a priority for the Coweta County School System and **Arnall Middle School**. As we look towards our reopening of schools August 6, our staff has been working tirelessly on protocols and procedures to maximize safety and keep everyone healthy. School reopening guidelines have been developed with the guidance of the Georgia Department of Education, the Georgia Department of Public Health, and the Coweta County Emergency Management Agency.

We thank you in advance for your patience and understanding as we move to reopening school and providing students with an environment to work together toward purposeful pursuit of excellence.

Information about COVID-19

[Symptoms of COVID](#)

[How to protect yourself from COVID](#)

[Georgia COVID testing sites](#)

Please keep your child home if they have the following symptoms:

Symptoms of Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Know the symptoms of COVID-19, which can include the following:

- Cough**: Illustration of a person coughing into their elbow.
- Fever**: Illustration of a person holding a thermometer to their forehead.
- Chills**: Illustration of a person shivering.
- Muscle pain**: Illustration of a person holding their arm in pain.
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing***: Illustration of a person breathing into a cloth.
- Sore throat**: Illustration of a person holding their throat.
- New loss of taste or smell**: Illustration of a person with a red 'X' over their nose and mouth.

These guidelines are subject to change as CDC regulations and guidance are provided throughout the school year. We will be flexible this year in our attempt to provide the safest learning environment for all children. (version - July 7, 2020)

What will a typical school day look like?

Arrival at School (Including the first day)

Parents or guardians who drop off their children in the morning will need to stay in their vehicle. Parents and guardians will not be allowed to enter the building, even on the first day of school.

Students arriving between 7:30 - 7:50 (car or bus) will report to the gym or to the cafeteria if they are eating breakfast. After 7:50, students will begin reporting to their homeroom classes. Car riders will be dropped off at the end of the car line nearest the gym and will enter the gym. Students that are eating breakfast will enter the front door of the school and proceed to the cafeteria. Students arriving by car after 7:50 will enter through the front door.

Students arriving by car after 8:15 are considered late to school, and must report to the front office to check in. Parents will need to remain in their cars.

As students arrive in the morning, random temperature checks will be performed on students by trained staff to ensure that students do not have a temperature higher than 99.5. The thermometers used at these checkpoints will be touchless.

Dismissal

Students leaving by car will begin exiting the building at 3:25, beginning with 6th grade students. Students will be picked up in the front of the school along the front sidewalk. Students will be sorted by grade level or if they are riding home with other students. Parents will be given a color coded placard that they will need to place in their front windshield each day. Parents will need to ensure that the child's name(s) are written in BOLD on the placard. 7th grade students will be standing near the side of the flagpole closest to the 7th grade hall. 6th grade students will be standing near the side of the flagpole nearest the 8th grade hall. 8th graders and all students riding with multiple students will be standing in front of the 8th grade building. Signage will be placed so students know where to position themselves for pick up. Parents will be asked to pull forward to one of two pick up spots that will be clearly marked. Parents must remain in their cars.

In the event a child needs to be picked up early, the parent or guardian will enter the school and remain in the front office lobby until the child comes to the front office lobby to leave. No early parent pick ups will be allowed after 3:00 PM.

Students and parents will be asked to observe social distancing while in the lobby, are subject to temperature checks, and may be asked to complete a health screening checklist.

Hallways/Transition

Student hallway aids have been put down with social distancing in mind. Students will be directed to walk on the right side of the hall and space themselves using the markers as a guide. Students will transition to different classes throughout the day. We will stagger dismissal of students to minimize the number of students in the hall at one time.

Lunch

Classes will alternate weeks to eat lunch in the cafeteria or in their classrooms to allow for greater social distancing in the cafeteria. While in the cafeteria, students will skip seats and only sit on one side of the table to allow for social distancing. Students will also have traffic aids to guide them in line to be able to put distance between students while waiting in line.

Classes that are eating in their classrooms will go to the cafeteria to obtain their lunch and return to the classroom. Trash cans will be placed on the hallway for disposal of lunch trays.

Unfortunately, we will not be allowed to have visitors at lunch until further notice.

Classrooms

Teachers are setting up their classrooms to maximize distancing for students. Students will keep their items with them during the day and will not share materials.

We will not be utilizing lockers this year. Students may carry a bookbag with them throughout the day. Rolling bookbags will not be permitted unless approved by the principal..

Students will still have the opportunity for two connection classes each 9-weeks. All connection classes will encourage physical distancing where feasible and limit student contact. Any instruments, equipment or materials used will be disinfected between classes to keep materials sanitary.

Orientation

This year's Orientation will look very different from previous years. However, we will do our best to reach out and welcome parents.

We will contact parents through email, letter, or phone call before school begins in order to welcome them to a new school year and provide relevant information. Class schedules will be available on Parent Portal beginning July 31st.

We will conduct a live virtual orientation on August 5th from 10 AM - 12 PM, that will be available to all parents. During this orientation we will introduce the teams of teachers and take a tour of the building. The link to the live virtual orientation will be posted on our school website at <http://ams.cowetaschools.net/> , a recording of the orientation will be made available for anyone that misses the live feed.

Unfortunately, we will not be able to accommodate in person visits this year. If you have special circumstances and are in need of an in-school orientation for specific reasons, you will need to contact the principal, at patrick.sullivan@cowetaschools.net to seek approval and make arrangements.

As soon as we have information about bus routes, we will post and share this information so that parents can look up their child's morning and afternoon bus number.

Virtual Learning (Empower Online Academy)

The Coweta County School system has created a virtual learning platform in which students can register and participate in virtual learning sessions led by Coweta teachers. Parents will have to register their student for the virtual learning option and must commit to virtual learning for a period of at least one semester.

Click [here](#) to see the system's online learning platform. Registration will be from July 6-17th, and the registration form can be found on the Empower website.

For students who receive special education services, parents who register for virtual learning will contact the special education office (in our central office) and they will arrange a meeting to discuss a plan for each student.

For students who receive gifted and other services, the system will have a teacher serve students by providing services each week (probably not per day). Frequency of gifted instruction during the week will be determined as the school year starts, and a schedule for services will be set.

Frequently Asked Questions

Will the school employ social distancing measures?

Yes, as much as possible. Coweta County School System employees, students, parents, and visitors will be encouraged to stay approximately 6 feet away from others, if possible, and avoid contact with others. Schools will implement several practices where feasible to follow best hygiene practices and assist in social distancing, including encouraging hand washing and face coverings and not sharing personal items, electronics, toys, books and other games or learning aids, minimizing student traffic flow and developing traffic flow patterns to maximize social distancing, increasing desk spacing where possible, turning desks to face in the same direction, minimizing group settings and limiting mixing between groups. Students at increased risk of severe illness should implement individualized plans for distance learning.

Will my child have to wear a face mask?

In accordance with current state guidance, students are encouraged but are required to wear face masks in the hallways, and other times that social distancing is not possible.

Can my child bring their own hand sanitizer and/or wipes to school?

The school will have several hand sanitizer dispensers throughout the school for student use. Additionally surfaces will be sanitized throughout the day. If parents wish for their children to have their own supply, students may bring their own hand sanitizer and wipes and use them when needed. Students may NOT share these items with any other students.

Will my child's teacher have to wear a face mask?

Staff will not be required to wear masks while in classrooms or during instruction when a social distance can be maintained. They will be required to wear them in areas where it is difficult to maintain physical distancing (for example, in hallways with other classes and in the cafeteria or during car/bus duty).

Can I visit my child at school?

Until further notice, no parents, guardians, volunteers, or mentors will be allowed on campus. The only people allowed on campus will be school system employees and/or essential personnel..

Parent conferences and meetings will be held via phone, email, or through virtual meetings, when feasible.

If a visitation is absolutely essential and approved by school administrators, visitors will be subject to a temperature check and questionnaire. These instances will be on a limited basis.

Will there be field trips this year?

All field trips have been temporarily suspended.

Will students be able to use water fountains?

No. All water fountains will be temporarily shut down to stop the spread of germs around the school. All students are encouraged to bring a water bottle to school. Water filling stations may be available for students to refill their water bottles during the day, but students will be encouraged to fill their bottles at home each morning.

Can I have something delivered to the school (food, gifts, etc.)?

Until further notice, no outside food or packages will be received at school (examples: food from outside school, gifts, flowers, balloons, etc.).

What protective measures will be taken on my child's bus?

Bus drivers will clean bus seats, handles, and railings before each route and students will be separated on the bus to the best extent possible.

Will there be athletics in the middle school this year?

District representatives and athletic directors are working to provide guidance in accordance with GHSA guidelines for all student athletes. We will communicate a plan as we receive it.

Seventh and eighth grade students (virtual and/or face-to-face) are eligible to participate in tryouts provided that they meet academic requirements and submit appropriate paperwork, including a physical.

What if a child presents with symptoms of COVID-19?

A list of COVID-19 symptoms to screen for can be found [here](#).

If a student displays COVID symptoms at school, or has a temperature above 99.5 degrees that does not decrease over time (multiple checks will be taken) and/or displays other symptoms that cannot be explained, the child's parents or guardians will be contacted to pick up the student.

The student will be moved into an isolation room until picked up by a parent or guardian. Parents or guardians will be given a reasonable time to pick up their child. If a parent cannot be reached or a student is not/cannot be picked up within a reasonable time frame, 911 will be notified and the child will be transported via EMS to a local hospital.

Parents should contact their child's school regarding any subsequent diagnosis of a child sent home from school, or who otherwise has exhibited symptoms of COVID-19 or other illnesses. Similarly, parents should notify their child's school if anyone in the household has tested positive for COVID-19.

The student will not be able to return to school until released by the system's lead nurse (who can be contacted by calling 770-254-2799. Calls will be returned as soon as possible). Even if the child has a doctor's note, the child will still have to be cleared by the system's lead nurse.

Any siblings or any other student living with a student who is sent home for fever or other symptoms may stay at school, unless they also display symptoms. Any siblings or any other student living with a person who tests positive for COVID-19 will also be required to quarantine, and may not return to face-to-face instruction until cleared to do so by the system's lead nurse.

All emergency and clinic cards need to be updated with current contact numbers and returned to school as soon as possible. Please include the name and numbers of any person (family or otherwise) who is able to pick up your child.

If a case of COVID-19 is diagnosed, local health and school system officials will be notified. Department of Public Health guidance will be followed, and local health and school officials will determine the next steps the school will follow, which may range from deep cleaning areas to school closing. Local public health officials will determine when or if letters will be sent home. The privacy of student, family and employee health matters will be maintained.