

Greetings from the Nest,

Parents, as you know, Dr. Rodriguez made the decision to start the school year virtually based on the COVID-19 levels for Beaufort County. Classes begin Tuesday, September 8. All daily class schedules will be forwarded to parents by next Tuesday, and then posted on the school website and Face Book page. The school day will begin at 8:30 and conclude by 2:30. We are starting a little later to allow parents and caregivers time to prepare breakfast for their students and to have them dressed and ready for the instructional day.

As we transition to the virtual opening, we are requesting students to have an area identified for daily instruction. There should be easy access for possible supplies: crayons, colored pencils, markers, pencils, erasers, glue stick, scratch paper, writing paper, child-sized scissors, and/or index cards. These should be stored in pencil bag, box, plastic container with lid, or even a heavy-duty Ziploc bag. Students will use these daily so it is important to identify the spot where supplies should stay, out of the reach of little hands (toddlers). Work space for instruction might be a kitchen table, desk, or even a coffee table, but needs to be a hard surface area large enough to hold the student device, books, and school supplies. Allow students to help decorate and prepare this space so they feel ownership and realize this is where school will be during Virtual Learning.

Virtual schedules provide for, all teachers will have daily office hours from 8:00-8:30 and 2:30-3:15. Additional times may be available, but those will be coordinated with the classroom teacher. The daily schedule includes 120 minutes for ELA and Social Studies, 90 minutes for Math, and 30 minutes for Science. Daily schedule includes lunch and recess from 12-1 and a 40-minute Related Arts block for all K-5 students. Students are required to be in attendance for the full day with no optional components. There will be frequent breaks during each block for students to do independent work, small group work, whole group work, and practice activities. This will be explained and outlined in the grade level schedules. During the instructional week, support Staff (Resource, Speech, ESOL, Rtl, and Counseling) will also be available to work with students. Their schedules will be sent at a later time.

We are very excited about the upcoming school year!!! Students will still work toward earning their WINGS daily by arriving to classes on time, being dressed for success, participating in daily activities, and completing assignments as **responsible** and **respectful** owls.

Parents will be contacted next week to set up a time for students to come in the week of August 24th to collect student devices (the \$20 user fee must be paid before a device is signed out to you), instructional supplies, and to take a few assessments. Please bring a set of headphones for your student to use during the assessments. Plan for an hour. Parents will be asked to remain in their cars, walk around the campus, or sit in the cafeteria where it is cool. Please bring a mask and perhaps a book to read while you

wait on your student(s) to complete assessments. This will provide teachers with useful information to plan for Reading and Math when he/she returns on September 8th.

I apologize for the length of this letter, but hopefully it has answered some of your questions. If you have any more, please don't hesitate to call (843) 322-7700 or email me at jamie.pinckney@beaufort.k12.sc.us or Marva Neal, Assistant Principal at marva.neal@beaufort.k12.sc.us.

Our goal for this year is to provide exciting and engaging instruction. At this time, we plan to leave all students in the room/program they have been assigned. Once we can assume Face to Face Instruction, the students who have chosen Virtual only will be moved to the teacher or teachers from the grade level who have volunteered to do the Virtual only classes. Since we do not know when the Face to Face will occur, we have decided to keep the placements as is for the time that we are all Virtual.

This year, whether virtual or face to face, we will grow together as learners: students, parents, teachers, and principals. We will be face-to-face as soon as it is safe, but for now, we will work very hard at the virtual learning setting. We look forward to seeing your child soon!

Yours in Education,

Jamie Pinckney, Principal of OES