



**St. Mary's County Public Schools
Central Administration**

Office of the Superintendent
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Dr. J. Scott Smith
Superintendent

October 2, 2020

Dear SMCPs Families:

This fall, we have remained committed to bringing students back for in-person instruction. Two weeks ago, when we “pushed pause” on the first phase of our return for students, we did so with the understanding that this was only temporary and that we would move forward with our return plan for the second marking period. Wednesday, at the [Board of Education meeting](#), we shared our revised timetable for our students’ return. This new schedule is consistent with the phased-in plan provided earlier this year, with minor adjustments to provide a more gradual transition with the first cohorts of students.

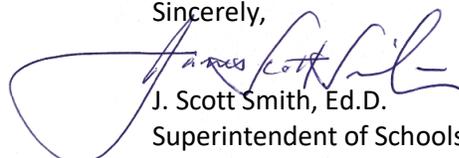
The attached schedule summarizes the timeline. The first group of students include those in specialized programs, with SAIL and COMPASS students returning on October 7. The schedule also includes a mid-week return for our youngest learners and orientation days for students new to a building, i.e., Head Start, pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, grade 6, and grade 9. The orientation days allow for students to follow their schedule, focused on helping them get connected and navigating the school. The following Monday, November 2, Grades 1 and 12 will also return for hybrid instruction and this will complete our Phased 2 Cohort. On Monday, November 16, we will begin Phase 3 with all students returning for hybrid instruction.

Please continue to monitor our [website](#) for updates on operations, cleaning protocols, transportation, technology, instruction, and other important information regarding safely returning students to our buildings. These protocols were presented at the [September 23 Board of Education meeting](#), where you can view the full [video](#) presentation or review the presentation [slides](#).

The Fall 2020 Return to School Response Forms are posted at tinyurl.com/SMCPsreturn2020. This survey is linked on each school website and provides important information about your student's return to school this fall. With the change of return dates, if you have already completed the form and you are not changing your response, you do not need to complete it again. If you have already completed the form and you are changing your response, please complete the form again. These forms provide important data to help plan appropriately for the students returning to school for each phase.

Thank you for your patience and flexibility throughout this trying time. As we move forward with the return to school plan for our students, we will continue to monitor our progress in each phase of students’ return. We look forward to seeing our students in classrooms, with safeguards in place, for in-person instruction. For our students who remain at home for virtual instruction, they will continue online in the Schoology platform accessing the same content as those meeting face to face. Additional information will be provided about further supports and ways in which students can receive individual attention.

Sincerely,



J. Scott Smith, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

St. Mary's County Public Schools
Phased-In Return of Students for Hybrid Instruction
Fall 2020

Dates	Student Group	Notes
Phase 1 Wednesday, October 7	Specialized programs return, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAIL • COMPASS 	These students will return to a regular schedule with in-person instruction being delivered each school day (Monday-Thursday). <i>They will remain in this 4 day/week schedule throughout the following phases as well.</i>
Orientation Wednesday, October 28 Thursday, October 29	Specialized programs return, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head Start • Pre-K Students will attend orientation by grade cohort with in-person hybrid instruction, including: <p>Elementary Level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kindergarten <p>Middle School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade 6 <p>High School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade 9 	<p>Head Start and PreK These students will return to a regular schedule with PreK AM and PM sessions for in-person instruction being delivered each school day (Monday-Thursday). <i>They will remain in this 4 day/week schedule throughout the following phases as well.</i></p> <p>Grades K, 6, and 9 will return Wednesday, October 28, and Thursday, October 29, as an Orientation for students new to the school.</p>
Phase 2 Monday, November 2	Students by grade cohort return with in-person hybrid instruction, including: <p>Elementary Level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head Start and PreK* • Grades 1 <p>Middle School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grades 6 <p>High School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grades 9 and 12 	<p>Grades K, 1, 6, 9, and 12 will begin the hybrid model with in-person instruction 2 days per week with the A group attending Monday and Wednesday and the B group attending Tuesday and Thursday. Fridays will remain an online work day with dedicated office hours and opportunities for intervention and enrichment as well as professional development and instructional planning.</p> <p><i>*Head Start and PreK will continue with a regular schedule – with AM and PM sessions- for in-person instruction being delivered each school day (Monday-Thursday).</i></p>
Phase 3 Monday, November 16	All remaining students return for in-person hybrid instruction: <p>Elementary Level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head Start and PreK* • Grades K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 <p>Middle School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grades 6, 7, and 8 <p>High School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 	<p>All grades will begin in-person instruction 2 days per week with the A group attending Monday and Wednesday and the B group attending Tuesday and Thursday. Fridays will remain an online work day with dedicated office hours and opportunities for intervention and enrichment as well as professional development and instructional planning.</p> <p><i>*Head Start and PreK will continue with a regular schedule – with AM and PM sessions- for in-person instruction being delivered each school day (Monday-Thursday).</i></p>