

Powell Middle School

Snap Shot of What to Expect in 2020-2021

Powell Middle Families,

We would like to share additional information that is specific to Powell Middle School for you to consider as you make decisions about whether your student will attend school in person or take advantage of the virtual option.

Powell Middle is committed to providing the safest and healthiest learning environment possible for our students and staff members. The following precautions will be implemented for the 2020-2021 school year:

Masks or face coverings

- o Masks will be required for all staff members and students at all times. This policy will be enforced consistently and appropriately. We strongly encourage to have 2-3 masks for school so they can frequently be washed during the week. Masks, gaiters, and face shields while wearing a mask, are acceptable.

Temperature Checks

- o All students, staff members, and visitors will be required to have temperatures checked upon entry of the building. Anyone with a temperature over 100.4 will discreetly be taken to the clinic where our Knox County School Nurse will follow their protocols.

Social Distancing

- o Powell Middle will make every attempt to spread students out in our classrooms, but in reality, we will not be able to meet the strict 6 ft. social distance guidelines in every classroom.

- o Lockers will not be used for the 2020-2021 school year. Therefore, the hallways will be less crowded and not encouraging congregating of students. Students will be expected to purchase a large protective backpack to carry all materials, books, and Chromebook. (This is specifically listed on the grade level supply lists too.)

Breakfast

- o Students wishing to eat breakfast will enter at the main entrance of the building, after having their temperature taken, and go through the breakfast line. Students will then take their breakfast back to their Panther Pause/homeroom to eat.

Social distancing at lunch

- o Students will sit every other seat at cafeteria tables. This reduces our cafeteria capacity by 50%. Classes will be taking turns eating in the cafeteria 2-3 days a week and 2-3 days in the classroom.

o In addition, we have removed several cafeteria tables to increase the distance between tables and allowing more room for entering and exiting the cafeteria.

Car Riders

o For car riders, there will be a posting on Facebook (search Powell Middle School and click join,) and our website <https://www.knoxschools.org/Domain/67> describing our car rider drop off/pick up procedure.

Bus Transportation

o Bus riders will be required to wear masks on the bus and sit with siblings if at all possible. Our plan is to take temperatures as soon as students disembark the bus. Any student with a temperature of 100.4 or greater will be discreetly taken to the clinic where our school nurse will follow Knox County protocol.

Walkers

o All walkers will exit the building and either walk down the greenway on the east side of the building and on to the Boardwalk or they may exit and walk down the sidewalk on west side of the building and the sidewalk next to the soccer field.

Morning Car Rider Drop Off

o For car riders, there will be a posting on Facebook (search Powell Middle School and click join,) and our website <https://www.knoxschools.org/Domain/67> describing our car rider drop off/pick up procedure.

o Parents will ideally drive up the long driveway and pull all the way to the end of the car rider lane, (right before you get to the mailbox.) Other parents will pull in behind the first car all the way to the beginning of the sidewalk in front of the cafeteria. Students will then be dropped off. Please do NOT pull around other cars to break the line to leave earlier. This is a huge safety issue as our crosswalk is greatly utilized and is just not safe for others.

o When the main single file line backs up about half way down the drive way, we will be opening up the bottom parking lot for drop off as well. If dropped off in the bottom lot, students will walk up the stairs to the top lot and then walk across the cross walk at the Officer's direction.

o The top staff lot will be closed to drop off due to safety concerns of our students.

Afternoon Car Rider Pick Up

o For car riders, there will be a posting on Facebook (search Powell Middle School and click join,) and our website <https://www.knoxschools.org/Domain/67> describing our car rider drop off/pick up procedure.

o To pick up your child in the afternoons, the first car needs to pull up in the front of the school and park right getting to the mailbox. Other cars will file in behind.

o A double line will then be formed all the way down to Emory Rd.

o You must stop at the top of the driveway where you turn left to drive in front of the school. We must keep the entrance to the back of the school completely unblocked. This is done to allow smaller buses and shuttles to enter and exit the back of the building.

o When the double line is formed at the top of the driveway, please allow every other car to proceed in front of the school. This is a courtesy and will keep traffic flowing so much faster.

o Parents may park in empty parking spaces in either the top or bottom lots. Please do not block or pull behind any car at any time.

o If parking in a parking space to wait on your child, parents must then walk to the awning and wait on their child to exit. **Social distancing (and wearing a mask if social distancing is not possible) must be practiced in order for us to maintain this plan.**

o The Post Office will not allow you to park at the Post Office for you to wait on your child to walk to you. In addition, parents will not be allowed to park at the Post Office and walk over to pick up their child. The Post Office has called and complained many times about our parents parking in their parking lot. This year, they will be contacting the Knox County Sheriff's Department regarding parking in their lot.

o No parking is allowed anywhere on Shropshire Blvd., even back behind the school in Broadacres. This is a concern for our bus drivers not being able to maneuver the buses through the street. ***Knox County Sheriff officers have specifically discussed this situation with our Administrative Team. Tickets will be issued if cars are waiting/parked along Shropshire Blvd. or nearby roads.***

Please, Please, Please Remember Time and Patience

o The major virtue to remember about being a car rider is to have plenty of time and plenty of patience when dropping off/picking up your child. Because of the way our driveway and parking lots are designed, we have traffic back up anyway. With the anticipation of even more car riders, time and patience are the only things you will need.

No Early Dismissals after 3:00 p.m.

o We will continue to not honor early dismissals after 3:00. At the end of the day, teachers are wrapping up lessons and students are getting organized to be ready for dismissal. These dismissals interrupt instructional time and will not be allowed. Please plan any appointments accordingly.

Traffic Patterns between Classes

o We are reviewing and modifying student traffic patterns to avoid clustering of students while changing classes. The master school schedule has been adjusted to reduce numbers of students in the hallways as well.

o Directional arrows will be placed in the halls to remind students of the traffic flow. In addition, these arrows are purposely placed 6 ft. apart to provide a visual reminder of social distancing.

Classroom Cleaning

o Classrooms, restrooms, and commons areas will be cleaned at regular intervals during the school day to decrease the chance of spreading COVID-19.

o Sanitation stations will be accessible in each classroom. Cleaning will be done by the teacher in between classes.

o Hand sanitizer will be provided by Knox County at numerous locations around the building. However, students may carry individual personal use hand sanitizer in their backpacks.

Limitations of Visitors and Dropping off of items

o Visitors will have very limited access to Powell Middle School. Parents and visitors will not be allowed to have lunch with students this year.

o Parents should only be dropping off essential items to students while at school.

o **Outside food items (i.e. fast food,) are deemed non-essential and will no longer be allowed to be brought in by parents.** For example, if a parent wants to bring his/her child a chicken sandwich, fries, and drink, from a fast food restaurant, this will no longer be allowed. However, if a child went out to eat the previous night and wants to bring leftovers to school in a lunch bag, he/she may do so. It is just the act of a parent coming in and dropping off fast food lunch for his/her child. I know that this has been allowed in the past, but due to the limitations of visiting the office, we are not able to allow parents to do so at the time.

We are excited about seeing our students back in the building soon. We understand that every parent needs to make a decision that best fits their situation for their family. Hopefully, this information will assist you while making your selection.

Sincerely,

Dr. Beth Howard

Principal