SCHOOL MEALS WILL BE FREE IN 2021-22
PAYING FEES ONLINE EASILY
NEW DIGITAL ATHLETIC TICKETING
ESPLOST BUILDING UPDATES
Hello, and welcome to a new and exciting school year! We are excited to go FORWARD to a new school year after a year of remote and hybrid instruction. Our goals continue to focus on providing each student with a quality educational experience along the path to a fulfilling future, based on every child’s interests and needs.

SCCPSS welcomes them! SCCPSS will continue to review school closure protocols and take guidance from public health officials to make decisions in the best interest of safety.

As we return to the buildings five days a week for in-person instruction this school year, some things will look a little different. We’ve put this packet of information together for you and your family to review prior to coming to school. It has been created to provide information about the health and safety protocols that will be in place when you return to school.

This packet contains information about:

- Cleaning and disinfecting
- Covering your mouth and nose
- Covering your cough or sneeze
- Staying home
- Avoiding close contact
- Washing your hands
- Keeping physically distant
- Wearing a mask
- Using protective items
- Monitoring your symptoms
- Eating and drinking
- Participating in athletics
- Participating in special events
- Cleaning your hands after touching your face
- Getting tested
- Returning to school

Let's go FORWARD to school!
Students received in Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools will continue to receive free school lunches through the 2023-2024 SY. All students in Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools already receive free school breakfast. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has issued a broad range of flexibilities to allow school meal programs across the country to return to serving healthy meals in fall 2021 as part of the government commitment to reopen schools safely. The waivers continue a commitment to provide safe, healthy meals free of charge to children as the pandemic continues to threaten the food and nutrition security of our most vulnerable.

"USDA will remain relentless in ensuring our nation’s children get the critical nutrition they need," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "It’s critical that our efforts to reopen schools quickly and safely include programs that provide access to free, healthy meals for our most vulnerable students, particularly those whose communities have been hardest hit by the pandemic. This program will ensure more students, regardless of their educational setting, can access free, healthy meals as more schools reopen their doors for in-person learning."

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

When you apply to college, you are interested in seeing your child’s financial aid for the upcoming year. You can get your free school lunches through the 2021-2022 School year. A healthy meal is a key to success for all students. Find out more about your school’s opportunities by visiting scscpss.com.

A modern method to contacts and help is to navigate the LMS, and the Parent Access Portal will be posted on this website.

TRoubleshooting computer problems:
Your school will be the point of contact for support. Issues that require escalation will be handled by the school and central support. If a parent or student has a technology problem, the first step is to contact your teacher. If the teacher is unable to assist, the LMS will escalate the issue to the Library Media Technology Specialist (LMTS). If the LMTS is unable to resolve the issue, he/she will escalate the issue to the support platform.

**NEED A PARENT ACCESS ACCOUNT?**

For parents of PowerSchool students, the Power School is the official repository for grades but you also can read announcements, catch up on your students’ class assignments, check grades, attendance, and discipline.

For parents of teachers, the Parent Access portal will be posted on this website.

Volunteers and Visitors:

to volunteering, visitors will be limited to those with business necessary for the operation of the school. However, if you are interested in becoming a volunteer, you will need register. Register now so we can get you included in our volunteer database and you’ll be ready to go when COVID safety restrictions are eased.

Volunteers are an invaluable resource to our teachers and students. Those who volunteer at school sharpen their skills, become better leaders, and develop a sense of pride in contributing to students’ success. Operation Beacon, the volunteer initiative in Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools, provides an easy and efficient way to manage volunteers, volunteer hours and projects.

Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools has restricted volunteers during the pandemic for safety of all parties. Volunteers are expected to be present and active in schools during the fall semester. All volunteers must register through the Operation Beacon portal. The portal is available on the district website, scscpss.com. Look for the Operation Beacon button on the left-hand navigation. All volunteers are screened with a background check.

**TECHNOLOGY**

**Students will receive a Chromebook for use again this year.**

New Chromebooks come pre-loaded with everything our students need to be successful including ClassLink, a single sign-on to access all district tools and resources. ClassLink includes the launch page for the Learning Management System (LMS). If you need assistance navigating the LMS, and to contact your child’s classroom teacher if they need help navigating the learning platform.

**VIRTUAL LEARNING EXPANDS AT SCELA**

Through most Savannah-Chatham County Public School students will be heading back to the classroom in person five days a week in August, some families may prefer virtual learning. In the 2021-22 SY, full-time virtual learning will be offered only through the Savannah-Chatham E-Learning Academy or SCELA.

Any student seeking a full-time, online option may register for an opportunity to enroll at SCELA. Due to increased interest in virtual instruction, Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools has expanded the application process for the Savannah-Chatham E-Learning Academy (SCELA) to students in grades 1 and 2.

SCELA is an online public school with teachers who are practiced in the delivery of online instruction. Students can enroll full-time or take online classes as part of their regular school schedule at their home school through our enrichment programs. Students accepted into SCELA for full-time instruction will transfer from their current school upon enrollment at SCELA. All enrolled students will be issued devices prior to the start of the school year.

“We believe one of the things I think was really good for us was just the consistency throughout the year with our schedule,” said Benjamin Lam, principal of Savannah-Chatham E-Learning Academy. “We’re always looking at what the needs are for our kids.”

“All SCELA students have a learning coach – a responsible adult who will communicate with you and your child on a regular basis and make sure the student logs on every day,” Lam continued. “There are commitments from all parties to make this a successful experience for our students.”

The school does not require a uniform but expects students to be dressed appropriately for class sessions following the SCCPSS Code of Conduct for non-school days. SCELA has adopted the Sea Dragon as the school mascot. Parents and students enrolling at SCELA must participate in an online orientation prior to the start of the school year.

The orientation will be offered in both a Synchronous and Asynchronous format. The schedule can be found on the SCELA website. You can find it located with "Alternative Learning Centers" under the "Schools" tab at SCCPSS.com. This year, the LMS is available to resolve the issue, he/she will escalate the issue to the support platform.

**TRoubleshooting computer problems:**

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SCCPSS Volunteers perform a valuable service in our schools. Volunteering doesn’t always have to be in the classroom or during school hours.

There are many ways that you can get involved, such as:

- Helping set up for school events
- Assisting with in-school and classroom kits at home
- Reading with children after hours
- Offering to tutor students

Volunteer needs are based on current school needs and will change often, but the best way to learn about your opportunities is to register through the Operation Beacon portal or simply to ask your school.
Beach High Auditorium (left)
The Beach High Auditorium has been completed and is ready for use this school year. The new building provides an auditorium with more than 600 seats that includes a raised stage, lobby, scene shop, dressing rooms, and state of the art sound and lighting systems. The facility is designed for both school and community use. The Board voted to name the new auditorium the Robert R. Mole, Sr. Auditorium. Watch for opportunities to tour this fantastic new facility.

Woodville Tompkins High Gym and Auditorium
Work continues on the new gym and auditorium at Woodville Tompkins Technical and Career High School. A new gym is being constructed while the old gym is converted to an auditorium. The new 1200 seat gym is finished with the expected completion of the auditorium to take place by the end of the year.

Savannah High Athletic Complex
Work is underway for the 2,000 seat stadium and athletic complex at the School of Liberal Studies at Savannah High. The scoreboard and lights have been installed and the field has been turfed at the site. Work is expected to be complete by the end of August.

Groves K-12 Multi-School Campus
Site work continues on the Groves K-12 Multi-School Campus property. The creation of a Multi-School Campus on the current site of Groves High School will bring Gould Elementary School, Mercer Middle School and Groves High School to one unique campus design that will maximize resources for the most effective use of ESPLOST funding. The project has a target completion date in 2023 for occupation during the 2023-24 School Year.

Islands High School Athletic Complex
The Islands High School Athletic Facility is the first district athletic facility. It includes competition fields for football, soccer and Lacrosse, as well as track and field. The facility includes a 2,000 seat stadium with fieldhouse and an artificial turf surface. Though used for competition during the 2020-21 SY, this year will mark the first time that many of our students and families will have a chance to see the new facility due to restrictions on capacity last year. As the district returns to full athletic schedules this year, we look forward to sharing the new facility with students from all over the district.

White Bluff Elementary
Though officially opened for the 2020-21 SY, pandemic conditions meant a delay in holding a ribbon cutting for the new White Bluff Elementary School facility. The new building accommodates 650 students and includes a full administrative suite, cafetorium with adjoining courtyard, gymnasium, state of the art library/learning commons, music and art rooms, special education rooms, and classrooms. A ribbon cutting will be held in the near future to share all the details of this beautiful campus with the community.

Jenkins High School
The replacement facility for Jenkins High School is on schedule and will be ready for students on August 4th! JE Dunn is the construction manager for the nearly $60 million project. The new facility will include a 239,000-square-foot, two-story school on the existing 40-acre Jenkins campus, as well as new homes for track and field, baseball, football, softball, tennis, and a field house. The new Jenkins High School will support a full STEM curriculum and will serve 1,375 students. A ribbon cutting will be held in the near future to celebrate this beautiful campus with the community.

New Hampstead K-8
Progress is being made on the New Hampstead K-8 but weather and the pandemic did create some delays in construction that will see the school opening for students in January 2022 instead of August this year. Much of the exterior is complete with work ongoing to finish the inside. Students zoned for the New Hampstead K-8 will be attending school with their cohort in classrooms at Godley Station this fall with plans to move to their new campus in January. Parents will be provided scheduling updates and will be notified when the official school opening is planned. Make sure your contact information is up to date in Power School.

ESPLOST UPDATES
Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools continue to make progress on major infrastructure projects paid for by the penny sales tax known as ESPLOST.
The SCCPSS 2021 summer learning program called EMBRACE was designed to inspire students with meaningful learning experiences and engaging activities. The program name “EMBRACE” actually contains an acronym that spells out the program’s objectives: Readiness, Acceleration, Credit Acquisition and Enrichment for all students. Two summer sessions were held for students to provide robust learning and credit recovery as well as acceleration before the return to school full time this August. In addition, there were several summer camps offered in collaboration with our Career and Technical Education department.

When planning began for the 2021 Summer EMBRACE program, the district’s goal was to hire 100 SCCPSS students to provide a fun, interactive, and educational time for elementary children attending SCCPSS Summer School and/or Camps. The district surpassed that goal and officially employed approximately 103 high school students at various summer school/camp sites throughout the district during June and July.

Students were hired to carry out planned lessons, activities and/or games for a 4–8-hour summer camp that met Monday through Friday. The ages of the children attending the camps ranged from 4 to 13. The interns worked to assist supervising teachers with preparing daily activities focused on a weekly theme, with an appropriate balance of independent and teacher-directed activities, a broad range of experiences, and frequent opportunities for children to make choices about what they do.

Keeping Savannah-Chatham Schools and facilities clean and sanitized is one of our highest priorities as students and staff return to the classroom in the 2021-22 SY. To achieve the highest standards, cleaning and sanitizing protocols adopted for the 2020-21 school year will remain in place.

High-touch surfaces will be wiped down multiple times per day as students transition between classes. All areas will be fogged with disinfectant on a regular basis and each district facility has been supplied with disinfectant wipes and hand sanitizer.

Some SCCPSS Students Stayed Busy Working with EMBRACE Through the Summer

SCHOOL CASH ONLINE AN OPTION FOR PAYING SCHOOL FEES

Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools are now utilizing School Cash Online to allow parents to pay for school fees online. The types of things the system can be used for include Field Trip Fees and Spirit Wear, plus much more. It’s fast, free, and easy to set up an account. Simply visit your school’s website and find the link to School Cash Online at the bottom of the page.

School Cash Online is designed for parents/guardians to have individual accounts. The student can be added to a maximum of five different accounts. When school staff add items to your child’s profile, e-mail notifications will be sent to the account holders. Once a field trip or activity has been purchased, it will disappear from the other account(s) to avoid duplicate purchases. The account holder will receive an emailed confirmation and receipt. Electronic receipts are also stored in the “Payment History” tab on the School Cash Online website.

Keeping your personal information safe is a priority. School Cash Online will never contact you by phone, email, or mail to ask you to divulge confidential information. School Cash Online does not share any of your personal information with any third party. The software does not store your payment information on the web server or any computers or other devices.

School Cash Online has partnered with industry-leading data centers and financial institutions to ensure that banking information is transmitted safely and securely. The website is certified as compliant with Payment Card Industry (PCI) Data Security Standard (DSS).

This ensures that all information is appropriately encrypted and not transmitted outside a PCI-safe environment. It is important to note that although School Cash Online facilitates the transactions as a service provider, it is the Tier one chartered banking partners, and not School Cash Online, that send money from parents to the school via a secure industry leading electronic funds transfer (EFT) process. In addition to PCI compliance, School Cash Online transmits data using HTTPS (secure internet protocols) and has established internal risk protocols that are constantly improving based on new technology developments.

COVID-19 CLEANING PROTOCOLS WILL REMAIN IN PLACE FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

During the 2020-21 SY, the District upgraded filters in all facility HVAC systems to better filter and clean air in our buildings. Mitigation practices include the availability of PPE and a robust stock of cleaning supplies. The cleaning of our school ventilation systems is also a strategic priority of the District. Filters designed for superior air filtration have been installed at all district facilities. Custodial staffs have been trained on the use of specific cleaning supplies and will apply a rigorous standard of sanitation for the health and safety of our students and staff.

High-touch surfaces will be wiped down multiple times per day as students transition between classes. All areas will be fogged with disinfectant on a regular basis and each district facility has been supplied with disinfectant wipes and hand sanitizer.

To achieve the highest standards, cleaning and sanitizing protocols adopted for the 2020-21 school year will remain in place.

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Digital Ticketing is Coming to a School Near You

Say goodbye to paper tickets at Savannah-Chatham County Public School athletic events!

SCCPSS will continue to use an all-mobile system to improve safety by reducing touchpoints with ticket holders, and to upgrade and streamline fans’ access to tickets. Tickets can be purchased at GoFan.co or by downloading the GoFan app on your mobile phone. All tickets will be redeemed on the guest’s phone at entry. Ticket prices will be $8 for Football, $7 for Basketball and $5 for all other activities requiring a ticket.

“With ticketless systems, parents and students will not have to worry about losing their papers or finding a place to stuff them in their pockets before we even get to the game,” said Julian Childers, SCCPSS Athletic Department Director. “This system will allow us to get our ticket sales done quickly and efficiently, saving us money while providing an improved experience for the fans.”

Tickets for SCCPSS athletic events will go digital in the upcoming school year, allowing for increased security and efficiency.

The new system will allow the athletic department to manage ticket sales and entry points with ticket takers, and to upgrade and expand student ticketing. The athletic department will not only save money on print costs, but will also upgrade and expand student ticketing and the enforcement of clear bag requirements.

John Sanders, SCCPSS Athletic Director. “By using the ticketless system, the athletic department will not only save money on printing and distribution costs but will also be able to quickly adjust to ticketing policies and procedures as they change and grow. This system also allows us to track attendance more efficiently and make decisions that are in the best interest of our students.”

Capacity limits at sporting events may still be necessary but not to the same standards as last year. Mask are optional at all events; district officials will continue screening protocols at points as needed.

SCCPSS will continue to follow security protocols for all major district events. In the interest of keeping our students, staff, and fans safe, all guests are subject to search upon entry. Failure to consent or submit to inspection will result in denial of entry. Security procedures include use of the metal detectors and/or handheld wands devices, bag inspection, and the enforcement of clear bag requirements. Screened procedures and examples of approved bags can be found on the district website.

Prohibited bags include but are not limited to purses larger than a clutch bag, briefcases, backpacks, fanny packs, clutch bags, bags made of any kind, non-approved seat cushions or seatback bags, diaper bags, baby buggies, pet carriers, ice packs, any other bags with compartments or pockets, and camera bags. Seat cushions and seatbacks must be no more than 16" or less in width with no armrests. Seat cushions and seatback with pockets, zippers, compartments, or covers will not be permitted. Weapons of ANY kind are prohibited on school district property or at school district events.

For more information, contact SCCPSS Athletics Director John Sanders at (912)395-6331.

To learn more about the SCCPSS Athletic Department, visit the SCCPSS Athletics website.

Athletic Department: John Sanders, Director of Physical Education and Athletics

johnc.sanders@sccpss.com

SCCPSS Accepted Into Georgia Department of Education Economic Development Partnership Cohort

The Savannah-Chatham County Public School District has been accepted into the Georgia Department of Education Economic Development Partnership (EDP) designation cohort for 2021-2022. The district will be one of 53 schools selected by the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) to participate in the EDP initiative, which is designed to support new, innovative ways to access education with key regional industries.

“The Economic Development Partnership will improve student achievement across all subgroups with the GREAT Initiative: Georgia’s Restarts Learning with Technology Initiative,” said Dr. Caitlin McMunn Dooley, Georgia’s State School Superintendent. “It’s our primary goal and tenet of the program. “It’s our primary goal and long-term vision, leadership, and success in leveraging research-informed strategies for personalized learning,” said Dr. Caitlin McMunn Dooley, Georgia’s State School Superintendent.

The EDP designation cohort is designed to build a more personalized and connected educational system, and to continue leveraging virtual learning more effectively, both during and after the COVID-19 pandemic and long-term.” State School Superintendent Richard Woods said. “These funds will help us build that system and expand personalized learning opportunities for our students.”

Georgia’s schools will use GREAT funding to improve the professional learning available to leaders and educators on personalized learning, expand student connectivity, and improve the infrastructure of – and expand access to – Georgia Virtual School (GaVS).

The initiative supports new, innovative ways to access education with an emphasis on meeting students’ needs during the coronavirus national emergency.

ATHLETIC EVENT TICKETS GO DIGITAL

TICKETING IS COMING TO A SCHOOL NEAR YOU

NEED HELP? HERE’S WHO TO CONTACT AT SCCPSS:

ACADEMICS AFFAIRS

KATIE AKERS
Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education
912-395-5585

KEVIN WILSON
Assistant Superintendent of Elementary, K-8 Schools
912-395-5583

BERNADETTE BALL-OVER
Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Schools
bernadette.ball-oliver@sccpss.com
912-395-5586

JULIAN CHILDERS
Assistant Superintendent of Instruction and Innovation
julian.childers@sccpss.com
912-395-5582

DIRECTIONS

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KIMBERLY MCGUIRE
School Counseling Coordinator
kimberly.mcguire@sccpss.com
912-395-4424

SCHOOL MEALS

ONETHA BONAPONE
School Nutrition Director
onetha.bonapone@sccpss.com
912-395-5581

FINANCE

AMANDA DROUGHT
School Finance Director
amanda.drought@sccpss.com
912-395-5580

SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

MICHIELE FINCH
School Services Director
michelle.finch@sccpss.com
912-395-4554

STUDENT AFFAIRS

RonalD AKANS
Work Based Learning and Innovation Coordinator
raland.akis@sccpss.com
912-395-5876

ATHLETICS

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FIFTEEN SCCPSS SCHOOLS INVITED TO JOIN YEAR TWO OF THE GREAT INITIATIVE: GEORGIA’S PATH FOR PERSONALIZED LEARNING

The Georgia Department of Education is welcoming 15 schools to Year 2 of The GREAT Initiative: Georgia’s Path for Personalized Learning. The initiative supports new, innovative ways to access education with an emphasis on meeting students’ needs during the coronavirus national emergency.

The Savannah-Chatham County Public School District has been invited to join Year 2 of the GREAT Initiative. The district’s invitation is endorsed by the Economic Development Partnership (EDP) designation cohort for 2021-2022. The program, which is loosely modeled on GaDOE’s STEM and STEAM certification partnerships, aims to meet the workforce development needs of Georgia’s current and future employers and expand opportunities for students. The program is designed to support new, innovative ways to access education with key regional industries.

The Economic Development Partnership (EDP) designation cohort is designed to build a more personalized and connected educational system, and to continue leveraging virtual learning more effectively, both during and after the COVID-19 pandemic and long-term.” State School Superintendent Richard Woods said. “These funds will help us build that system and expand personalized learning opportunities for our students.”

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Note for District employees:

Staff Planning days are included on the Academic Calendar for reference only and do not represent the official SCCPSS Work Calendars.


LEGEND

- Holiday for All
- Holiday (School Staff/Students)
- Nine Week Period Begins
- Nine Week Period Ends
- District Planning Day
- Progress Reports Issued
- Staff Planning Day
- Report Cards Issued

INSTRUCTIONAL PERIODS - Total (180) Days

FIRST SEMESTER
- First Nine-Week Period: 08/04/2021 - 10/07/2021
- Second Nine-Week Period: 10/12/2021 - 12/17/2021

SECOND SEMESTER
- Third Nine-Week Period: 01/04/2022 - 03/09/2022
- Fourth Nine-Week Period: 03/10/2022 - 05/24/2022

CALENDAR NOTES

First Day of School
August 4, 2021

School Board Meeting
August 11, 2021
(Informal meeting at 11AM/Regular meeting at 2PM)
Whitney Administrative Complex, Bldg. G 2 Laura Avenue

First Quarter Progress Reports Issued
September 3, 2021

Fall Break for School Staff/Students
October 8, 2021

Staff Planning/No School for Students
October 11, 2021

First Quarter Report Cards Released
October 15, 2021

Labor Day Holiday (No School)
September 6, 2021

Veterans Day (No School)
November 11, 2021