



# Sand Pine Elementary

# SPES

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Wesley Chapel, FL 33543  
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Christina Twardosz, Principal  
Lisa Grimsley, Assistant Principal

July 30, 2020

Dear Families,

I hope that this letter finds you safe and well. Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! I want to ensure you that it is my mission and duty to do all that I can to prioritize safety while continuing to focus on student learning. We have spent the summer cleaning and preparing our campus for the students' return. Mrs. Grimsley and I have been working with the district to develop solutions and create our "new school normal" while adhering with CDC guidelines such as social distancing, cohorting, directional walkways, encouraging extra hygiene practices and extra cleaning practices in all areas especially on "touch points" (areas that are touched at a higher frequency). The district is also limiting visitors to the school, so appointments are necessary to visit the school, and lunches with parents are unable to take place at this time.

Here is what to expect if your child is attending traditional school this year. Students will be allowed to proceed directly to the classrooms starting at 8:10 in the morning. If you are a parent of a walker or biker, please ensure your child does not arrive at school prior to its opening at 8:10 since we are unable to have students congregate in the front of the school as in previous years. Once students come on campus, they will follow directional arrows as they are sent directly to pick up breakfast or head to their classrooms. Students will stay with their class cohort for the entire day and will not be mixing with other grade level students. Lunch, recess and P.E. will all be done in separate cohorts. Art and Music will come to the classroom. Whenever possible, reduced class size has been established to allow for physical distancing. Every child will have an isolated desk where they can keep their personal supplies and we encourage the use of water bottles. Extra cleaning and sanitizing protocols have been put in place while students are on campus and also in the evening to prepare for the next day, with a special emphasis on touch points. Dismissal has also been adjusted to allow for social distancing as much as possible.

If your child is attending mySchool online, you can expect their day to mirror the traditional in the building schedule, which means when his/her grade level is having reading, math or science they would be online with a Sand Pine mySchool teacher also receiving a similar lesson. Students will have time off the computer during times such as recess and lunch. Unlike distance learning we did in the spring teachers will only be available during regular school hours. Please be mindful that in order for the teachers to assess and provide accurate supports, we need your children to do the heavy lifting of the academic work. Just as we have assessments in the traditional setting, your children will be taking assessments and at times will be doing discussion-based assessments individually with the teacher. Students will have a materials packet with supplies (and/or devices) that will need to be picked up on August 20, 2020. More information will be forthcoming.

It is important to note that the same attendance policies that we implemented at the start of 2019 will be in effect. Even if your child is learning from home (mySchool), we need them to be on time and "attend" the whole day of learning.

Whether your child is attending school via the traditional method or mySchool, one thing remains exactly the same: they are all Sand Pine students! As we endeavor into the unknown this year, it is only fitting to have a space theme: space in social distancing on campus and also space for all students to learn and grow as individuals and collaborators. The more we can get students to engage in their own learning, the more they can grow because we know, Super Learners are Super Leaders! I am committed to creating a positive, safe, and nurturing environment where our students are engaged and motivated to learn. As we reach for a higher level of academic achievement, I invite you to be a part of your child's school experience. Meet the Teacher Day on August 20, 2020 will be virtual for grades 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup>, with kindergarteners visiting campus by appointment. This year in particular, communication will be especially critical. Please visit our Facebook page and school website to gain valuable updates and information including our new Sand Pine Spotlight. I appreciate your patience and understanding as we embark on this uncharted journey.

Sincerely,

Christina Twardosz



**Pasco County Schools**

Kurt S. Browning, Superintendent of Schools  
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