

Dear Lee-Scott Academy Families,

Thank you for another great week at Lee-Scott Academy! The planning our team has done over the last five months was to prepare our school for “when” not “if” we face the challenges of COVID-19. We are now in that situation and are working with the Alabama Department of Public Health, local pediatricians, our school nurse, and families to ensure that we continue to provide a safe, healthy environment while creating a seamless transition to blended learning for families affected.

Here are some things I want you to know:

I want you to know that the guidelines and policies we are following are from the CDC, ADPH, AISA, AHSAA, and AAP with guidance from community leaders, pediatricians, and medical personnel in our school family. These guidelines are being monitored daily, and we are reevaluating as some of the policies and procedures we adopted are changed. This situation is unprecedented and our response to changing conditions will be fluid and rapid. There have been a great number of questions asked of us by people in the community to which we just don't have an answer. Likewise, we have no control of what the government might mandate. Please continue to follow the guidelines we set until we notify you of any changes.

I want you to know that because of HIPPA and privacy laws, we are not able to share the names of our students with faculty, staff, local media, etc. in the case of a positive test. We are a small school and while we know that information will get out eventually because of the relationships our families have, we as school employees need to be cautious and careful about sharing information, engaging in conversations about individual students, or commenting on social media. This is to protect you and your family as well as our LSA faculty and staff. We will communicate with you directly as a family if there are positive cases or concerns in your student's grade level. We will not send out SchoolMessenger emails school wide concerning individual cases, share on our school social media sites, or comment publicly about cases. We will contact you if your family is affected and continue to communicate internally via SchoolMessenger with updates and changes to policies and procedures.

I want you to know we are doing our best as administrators to deal with situations while protecting our faculty and their classrooms so they can focus on educating our students and creating a safe, normal school day for them. This is so important for our students - socially, emotionally, and mentally - and I am so thankful for the work they are doing to give them that normal.

I want you to know that as educators we are living in a fish bowl in our community. We are being watched daily and receiving feedback that is positive, negative, and sometimes unfair. We are not health officials, physicians, public policy writers, etc. but are being asked to fill those roles in our schools. We are doing our best each and every day, and will get through this together as a school family!

I want you to know that I am extremely proud of our faculty and staff! These past two weeks have presented challenges and this school year has been a significant adjustment for them and their families. I am so proud of the way in which they have responded and the countless hours they have invested in our students to learn and prepare for different scenarios. They have moved rapidly to transition from what is comfortable and familiar to now what is a new normal. They are pushing each other to think differently and try new technologies in their classrooms. And most importantly, they are lifting each other up to ensure we continue to fulfill and live our mission.

How can you help?

Continue to pray for our faculty, staff, and students...“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.” 2 Timothy 1:7

Continue to do wellness checks at home each morning before sending your student to school.

Continue to encourage your student to properly wear their masks, wash their hands throughout the school day, and use hand sanitizer to help mitigate the spread of the virus.

Please remember if you and your family wish to choose blended learning as an option, you must contact the lower school principal or the upper school principal for approval to switch to this option. Students cannot go back and forth between face-to-face or blended learning day-to-day. I have listed the email addresses of the principals below.

Dr. Mary Anna Martin-Smith
Lower School Principal
masmith@lee-scott.org

Ms. Donna Lloyd
Upper School Principal
dlloyd@lee-scott.org

Thank you for your continued support, patience, and grace as we work together each day to navigate these uncharted waters!

Dr. Stan Cox
Head of School