



Wednesday, July 22, 2020

To: Southern University Laboratory School Families & Friends

Re: **Update regarding the start of the 2020-2021 school year**

I hope all is well, and that you and your families are safe. We wanted to take a moment to thank you for your continued support and understanding as we persevere during the COVID-19 pandemic. Out of an abundance of caution, we (SULS) wanted to inform our parents that we will start school with full virtual instruction this school year. School will start August 10, 2020.

As we continue to receive guidance and information from the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE), the Center for Disease Control (CDC), and the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), we will continually review our position as it relates to a safe face to face return to school.

Southern University Laboratory School (SULS) is committed to providing a safe learning environment for our faculty, staff, and students, and it is our priority to do so. As we receive more information and data, we will continue to plan for quality learning experiences. This proactive approach will ensure continuity of learning as we academically prepare and provide our students with technology access and social-emotional support needed through this journey.

Educationally Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Brister', written over a white background.

Herman R. Brister  
Director

## **Frequently Asked Questions:**

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**Is online education as effective as face to face instruction?** Even though virtual learning is relatively new, it can be just as effective as face to face learning. There are strategies teachers can use that can maximize the learning experience just like face to face learning that is tailored to virtual learning.

**Is Southern University Laboratory School (SULS) and Southern University Laboratory Virtual School (SULVS) the same school?** No, SULS and SULVS are two different schools and are recognized with two different site codes by the Louisiana State Department of Education. SULS teachers will be delivering instruction virtually through Google Classroom. If a student registers and gains acceptance to the Southern University Virtual School, he/she must drop from the Southern University Laboratory School and enroll in the Southern University Virtual School. Once a student officially drops from the Southern University Laboratory School he/she must reapply to gain acceptance back to Southern University Laboratory School.

By choosing to remain with Southern University Laboratory School the familiarity will remain between our students and teachers. Once we return to the building whether it is hybrid (½ face to face and ½ SULS virtual learning) or full face to face, the students' transition will be seamless as it relates to the pacing set forth by Southern University Laboratory School.

**Do we still pay full tuition?** Yes, families will still pay full tuition. Teachers will be teaching high quality lessons and interacting with the students virtually. Students will be required to complete homework, assignments, projects, quizzes, etc.

**Do I still pay for lunch?** We are working with the university to see what recommendations they have in relation to this matter. More information and clarification is forthcoming.

**What happens if a student is absent?** Attendance will be taken daily; however, students who have to be absent for doctor's appointments, illness, etc., can access a recording of the lesson for the day. Excuses, such as doctor's notes, must be submitted virtually to Mrs. Augustus at [evelyn\\_augustus@sulabschool.com](mailto:evelyn_augustus@sulabschool.com).

**How do we receive student support if my child has trouble with the lessons?** Teachers will provide live lessons and small group instruction for all students enrolled in their courses. Teachers will also have a scheduled time for office hours where students can get additional support.

**Will my child still receive their accommodations and supports?** Students who receive accommodations, such as extended time, will continue to receive the same accommodations they would receive as if they were in the school building. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact our guidance counselor Ms. Franklin at [crystal\\_franklin@sulabschool.com](mailto:crystal_franklin@sulabschool.com)

**What time will classes be held?** Students will receive a schedule to follow. The schedule will mimic a regular school day and include times for breaks and lunch. Most of the meeting times will be live instruction (synchronous learning), but there will be some mixed instruction and/or assignments that will not be live where students are working independently (asynchronous learning).

**How will testing work virtually?** Teachers will provide instructions on how to complete class assessments when needed. Guidelines and parameters will be in place so that students can test at home using the school issued electronic device.

**What happens if I do not have a computer?** Every child will be issued a device by the school. It is mandatory that the student uses this device for virtual instruction. All students must use their sulabschool accounts and school issued devices for learning. In the event something happens and the student experiences technical difficulties, lessons are recorded for playback purposes. It is imperative that you contact the school if you are unable to access the internet, experience technical difficulties that prevent you from logging on virtually, if your device is not working properly, and/or you have not received a school issued device.

**How will the school handle behavior issues virtually?** Minor behavior issues will be handled by the classroom teacher. Major behavior issues will be reported to the Dean of Students, and will be handled according to the student rights and responsibilities handbook.

**Who are the teachers who will be teaching virtually?** The current SULLS faculty will be the virtual teachers.

**How does the work get graded?** Teachers will use the same grading scale and methods of providing feedback to students in a timely manner. Parents will still be able to follow student progress through the Student Progress Center.

**How will students be enrolled in Dual Enrollment?** All Dual Enrollment courses will be online. Students enrolled in those classes will participate virtually for the duration of the semester.

**Will parents still need to buy supplies from the teacher's supply list?** We will post some suggested learning materials and supplies for a successful virtual learning experience on our school app. Supplies include pencils, paper, sticky notes, a dry erase board and markers and a printer. Teachers may ask for additional supplies tailored to his or her class.

**Do we still have to buy uniforms?** Per the student handbook, students are required to be dressed appropriately during virtual lessons. Students who are logged in virtually (SULLS) will be required to wear their school polo shirt. [Kitten Store Link](#)

**How long will we be in full virtual learning?** We will continue to follow guidance from the Louisiana Department of Health and the CDC. We will evaluate the situation following Labor Day to determine if and when we can safely return to face to face instruction. We will continue to keep you abreast of information as updates become available.

**Do we have to wear a Southern Lab mask?** Masks are on sale and for order through the Kitten store; however, students can wear any mask that they feel most comfortable with. All masks should be a solid color without any print or images on them.





**What is the typical workload for virtual learning?** Like traditional classes, the workload can vary; however, do not expect work to be easier because it is online. The same levels of difficulty will be present.

**What platform will be used for virtual learning?** Teachers will use Google Classroom and Google Meet for their virtual classes.

**How do I complete registration?** Complete the deferred application or registration appointment form. The deferment applications are for parents who are interested in the deferment option (½ of the total amount owed for the semester paid followed by three equal monthly payments). Parents who are interested in paying the full amount must complete the [appointment registration form \(click the link\)](#). If you do not feel comfortable coming in person, you will need to complete the credit card authorization form ([Click here for credit card authorization form](#)). It is located in the school app under documents. Once you complete the form, email the completed form to Ms. Smart at [reshonsi\\_smart@sulabschool.com](mailto:reshonsi_smart@sulabschool.com).

**What should I do if I have an outstanding balance?** Persons with outstanding balances should complete the registration form located in the school app under documents. If you still have questions or need assistance, please email Ms. Smart at [reshonsi\\_smart@sulabschool.com](mailto:reshonsi_smart@sulabschool.com).



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