Picayune School District Restart Plan for the 2023 -2024 School Year:

It is important to note that any re-start plan set forth by the Picayune School District is subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances, executive orders, local ordinances, etc. as related to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Although Mississippi public school districts have received “guidance” from the Mississippi Department of Education, Mississippi Department of Health, and the Center for Disease Control, the Picayune School District’s top priority is the health and safety of our students and staff.

The intent of this document is to give parents and students as much information as possible in a precise and easy to read format. It is not written to answer every “what if” or “suppose this” scenario. It is impossible to produce such a document that answers every question and/or every situation as related to the re-opening of school. However, please do not hesitate to contact your child’s principal or the central office for specific questions. Please know that this plan is subject to change based on future recommendations from our federal, state, and local agencies as the start date of school approaches.

It is the Picayune School District’s goal to see that every child has every opportunity to grow academically, socially, and emotionally in a safe and healthy environment during this vital time in their lives. With the support of our community, great teachers, staff, and supporting parents working together, we know that the students attending the Picayune School District will have a successful school year.

Revised May 19, 2023
The Picayune School District will begin classes on a traditional format. Students present will be in an environment as close to normal as possible while following federal, state, and local guidelines related to COVID-19 or any other contagious illness. Students will return to school on August 4th. Teachers will return on August 1st.

Every student is required to attend school everyday unless they have an excused absence as defined in the student handbook. Attendance will be reported daily according to procedures set by the MS Department of Education.

Parents/visitors will report directly to the front office of the school when visiting any school campus.

Buses will operate on a regular schedule with an emphasis on safety and cleanliness.

Breakfast and lunch will be served daily on a regular schedule established by the school administration.

The Picayune School District will follow all MHSAA guidelines and recommendations as it pertains to athletic events and activities. School districts must abide by MHSAA rules and regulations as a member of the organization.

The Picayune School District Maintenance Department will monitor the cleaning of schools, classrooms, and high traffic areas.

School nurses will monitor the health and wellness of all students. Students who have temperature greater than 100.3 and/or other symptoms of a contagious illness will be isolated and must be picked up immediately. Picayune School District requests that parents/legal guardians keep their child home if they do not feel well or have a fever. Students and staff members who have experienced fever, vomiting, diarrhea, or any other symptoms of a contagious illness must be fever/symptom free for 24 hours without the use of medication before returning. In some cases, nurses reserve the right to request a release to return from a medical provider.

It is the expectation of the Picayune School District that all students or staff members diagnosed with COVID-19 or any other contagious illness follow the directives of their medical provider regarding return to school/work. The Picayune School District will follow the advice and guidance of the Mississippi State Department of Health regarding COVID-19 and any other contagious illness. We will respond to any Executive Orders issued by the Governor of Mississippi.

In the event of a school closure, the Picayune School District will continue instruction through the use of virtual learning and paper packets. School administrators and teachers will work with parents and students on a case-by-case basis to meet individual needs.
Picayune School District Attendance Plan

The Picayune School District, with guidance provided by the MS Department of Education and the MS Department of Health, has developed an attendance plan for the 2023-2024 school year. This plan is subject to change due to updates in guidelines issued by the Governor’s Office, MS Department of Health, and MS Department of Education. At this time, we will follow the Traditional Schedule. Should school closure restrictions or quarantines be necessary, due to COVID-19 or any other contagious illness, a Distance Learning Schedule will be implemented. If this occurs, parents and the public will be notified as soon as possible.

Traditional Schedule

• Traditional school attendance will continue for the 2023-2024 school year with few changes to school routines and extra-curricular activities.
• Each teacher/counselor will maintain a functioning Google Classroom to be utilized with an established schedule.
• Should schools close for any reason (e.g. weather, pandemic), students will be expected to actively participate in the Google Classroom for each course in which they are enrolled.
• Attendance will be recorded according to MDE guidelines.

Distance Learning
(Continuity of services if closed due to pandemic or other unplanned/unforeseen circumstances)

According to State Board Policy 56.2 (revised July 2021), all districts shall resume providing face-to-face, in-person instruction as the primary mode of instructional delivery for the 2023-2024 school year. Mississippi Code Ann. § 37-13-63 mandates that Mississippi public schools have a minimum of 180 days of teaching and Miss. Code Ann. § 37-13-67 requires a minimum of 330 minutes of actual teaching per school day. Process Standard 13 of the current edition of the Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards mandates that both students and teachers are present for scheduled classroom instruction during the minimum of 180 days.

Therefore, Picayune School District will only provide distance learning during the 2023-2024 school year as follows:

1) If state and/or federal requirements prohibit in-person learning.
2) In the event of unplanned/unforeseen circumstances (including weather in which widespread power outages are not anticipated), Picayune School District may opt to utilize designated school wide or district-wide distance learning days.

Distance Learning Requirements

• PSD will ensure that students, parents, and staff are provided with at least one school day of notice in advance of any virtual learning days so that students and staff are familiar with equipment, online platforms, and district-wide policies. Each school will identify and have alternate plans in place only for individual students who do not have access to internet services and shall ensure that the instruction is equivalent to his/her peers.
• Students participating in virtual classrooms will demonstrate appropriate behavior and dress as listed in the student handbook. Behavior or dress that does not meet the standards listed in the student handbook will be documented by the teacher and reported to the appropriate administrator.
• Grades will be assigned following normal district grading policies as listed in student handbooks.
• During times of extended distance learning, the PSD Department of Exceptional Education will conduct virtual or phone meetings pertaining to the evaluation and eligibility of students with disabilities in accordance with guidelines established by MDE. The Director of Exceptional Education and school administrators will ensure that ongoing communication with families, teachers, and related service providers is maintained and compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is followed.

Picayune School District provides equal access to distance learning and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, or disability.

**Academic Support and Feedback**

Academic support and feedback are provided and received through MTSS and TST team meetings that involve parents, teachers and counselors.

i-Ready, Google Classroom, Tutoring Services, Summer Programs and other resources are available for students to extend learning beyond the school day.

**Communication and Feedback**

Means of communication with parents, guardians and stakeholders include:

• School Status text message, Remind Messaging or personal phone call
• AIMS Message - telephone call out from the District or School
• E-mail
• Parent newsletters
• School site social media pages – Facebook
• Local newspaper, radio station and television stations – Picayune Item, WRJW and WLOX
• Feedback – comprehensive needs assessment and district surveys

**Health and Safety**

• Counselors and Social Workers are available to students and staff on every campus providing social and emotional support as needed.
• Clear health protocols will be enforced including staying home when sick and following specific re-entry procedures for students/staff that are diagnosed with a contagious illness.
• Schools will provide instruction for students and staff on minimizing the spread of infectious diseases.

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