

July 17, 2020

Dear Families of Taylor Ranch Students,

I hope you are all doing well and staying healthy. I know that many of you have questions and concerns about next school year and what it will look like on-campus, remotely, virtually, or in a home-school setting. I also realize that many of you are hesitant to fill out the district survey at this time because there is no guarantee on the state of the pandemic a month from now. I am hopeful this will answer some of the questions you may have. I must also point out that all information in this letter is subject to change as the State FLDOE has not yet approved the Sarasota County School District plan.

Survey Info - *students without a survey response will be counted as returning to in-person school

Necessity – the survey responses are necessary for proper staffing at Taylor Ranch. We need to know how many students to expect in-person and remotely to make sure we have enough teaching staff for both options. **PLEASE complete the survey!**

Commitment – answer the survey with the plans/thoughts you have right now. You can retake the survey if you change your mind. There will come a date where a final decision must be made and that will be shared with you through TRS and through the district. Remember to take the survey one time for each child you have at TRS.

Clarifying Options

Option 1 – Brick & Mortar Return: Students return to Taylor Ranch School to access their education. Students will be assigned a teacher, report to school daily, practice social distancing, frequent handwashing/sanitizing, and are required to wear a mask or face shield except at lunch time. If this is your option, it would be great to practice regular mask/shield-wearing with your child before the first day of school.

Option 2 – Remote Learning: This is the option that has generated the most questions. Below are bulleted key points.

- Student will be assigned to a TRS teacher
- Students will login to remote learning by 8:30 each day, Monday-Friday, and follow the entire school day with their teacher & class. A few examples:
 - When the class goes to lunch, the remote student will eat lunch
 - When the class goes to specials, the remote student will go to specials
 - Instruction will be streaming via video from classroom
 - All learning and instruction happen in real-time

Taylor Ranch School

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- This is the plan for all grades K-5
- A student starting remotely may return to in-person learning. Currently, we are looking for clarification regarding timelines (at the end of the quarter, etc.). The order issued by the FLDOE appears to indicate that students can return to in-person learning at any time. If this is verified and remains the mandate, then it is important that students, once recommitting to in-person learning, don't continue to fluctuate back and forth unless there is an extenuating reason, like illness.
- If a student returns to in-person learning they will be in the same teacher's class that they worked with while in remote learning. For continuity of instruction and appropriate class levels, teacher changes will not be made.

Option 3 – Virtual Learning: Students are withdrawn from Taylor Ranch School to participate in Florida Virtual School or Sarasota Virtual School. Virtual options have their own curriculum and teachers and instruction is aligned to Florida standards. Students are committing to a full-year or a full-semester with these options. Students wishing to return to TRS are required to re-register for the 2021-2022 school year or at the semester break.

I hope these distinctions help to answer some of the many questions I know families are dealing with at this time. We know that everyone would love to return to TRS in person and be taught by our committed and caring teachers. I am also very aware, that for many reasons, this may not be the right option for your family at this time and I absolutely respect the decisions made in the best interest of your family and student.

I can't stress enough the importance of completing the survey, even if you're uncertain. It is a critical piece helping us to ensure the continuation of high-quality instruction and learning while keeping our students, staff, and families safe. I thank you in advance for taking the two-minutes it will take to complete it. Use the link below to access the following important and up-to-date documents:

1. Parent Survey
2. The SCS Back to School Plan submitted to the FLDOE
3. FAQs related to returning to school
4. FLDOE Reopening Plan for Florida Schools

<https://www.sarasotacountyschools.net/backtoschool>

I realize there is a lot of information in this letter and within the links provided. Please read through what is important to you, take the survey for TRS, and rest in the comfort that you can change your mind. We are in this together and we know this a fluid, dynamic time where things are changing daily. I will email you with updates as plans begin to solidify for our in-person and remote learning options at Taylor Ranch School.

Warmly,

Tara Spielman, M.Ed.
Proud Principal of Taylor Ranch Elementary