



East Elementary School
27050 Fairway Drive
Punta Gorda, FL 33982



Dr. Lori Carr, Principal

Mrs. Kim Blondun, AP

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers of East Elementary Students:

As we prepare to welcome our students for the 2020-2021 school year, we have examined every aspect of their school day in an effort to provide students a safe, healthy environment in which to receive an education. I imagine some of you will applaud these changes, while others may feel they are not necessary. Either way, the following changes and protocols will be in place during the first quarter of the school year. These changes and protocols will be examined and possibly amended at the beginning of the second quarter, depending on the trend in the number of COVID cases in the state of Florida and in Charlotte County, particularly.

Changes necessary to reduce students' opportunity to be exposed to adults with Coronavirus:

- Only CCPS employees will be allowed past the foyer of the school.
- Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers may no longer walk their children to their classrooms.
- Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers may no longer eat breakfast or lunch in the cafeteria with their children.
- Volunteers will not be allowed.
- PTO and SAC meetings will be held virtually.
- The number of school events and activities will be drastically curtailed.
- Parent conferences will be held virtually or via telephone.
- Meetings that require a parent's presence (IEP, 504, LEP, etc.) will take place virtually or in the office conference room.

Changes necessary to reduce students' opportunity to catch Coronavirus from a classmate, or spread Coronavirus to a classmate:

- Desks have been moved apart and all students will be seated facing the same direction.
- Students' hands will be sanitized prior to entering the cafeteria for breakfast.
- Students' hands will be sanitized upon entering the classroom each morning, before/after working with communal instructional materials, before/after playing on or with the recess equipment, before /after lunch, and before/after specials.
- Students will be directed to wash their hands frequently throughout the day.
- Media center books will be housed out of circulation for the CDC recommended length of time, prior to returning the book to the shelf.
- The number of students in the cafeteria at one time has been reduced. In addition, students will sit every other seat, and diagonally across from others.
- Students will line up and walk 6 feet apart in the hallways (this will be practiced).
- The wearing of masks is mandatory. The teacher will contact the student's parent/caregiver should a student not wear their mask, even after being reminded to do so.
 - Masks must adhere to dress code (see Code of Conduct)
 - Students with sensory or medical conditions may be exempt pending medical documentation

- Buff and gaiters are acceptable substitutes for masks
- Certain hallways in the school will be designated as “one-way” to eliminate students passing each other in the hallways.
- Students should bring a reusable bottle of water to school so they will have water in the classroom and during/after SPA. Bottled water will also be available in the cafeteria for \$1.
- Students will no longer enter the Clinic to receive their medications. Medications will be administered to students at a secondary location.

Additionally:

- The Outstanding Attendance award has been eliminated this year. If your child is ill, we want them to stay home.
- The front doors of the school will be locked until 8:00 each morning. Do not drop off students prior to 8:00 unless they are enrolled in our before-school care program. In the past, numerous students who were dropped off early congregated in the foyer prior to 8:00. This is no longer a safe practice.
- If necessary to enter the school lobby, please adhere to the distance markers on the floor.

After reading the above, I hope you feel more secure in allowing us to educate your children this coming school year. I understand these are many changes to absorb all at once, and I understand it might negatively influence the welcoming, family feeling we strive to demonstrate at East; however, our mission has always been to keep your children safe while providing them with a top-notch education. The world has changed – our mission has not.