

The Dove's Nest

The Official Newsletter of SKTCS – February 2021



Susie King Taylor
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

February 2021

A Community, not Just a School

At SKTCS we ask our students and their families to adhere to 5 core values:

Focus

Respect and Responsibility

Empathic

Empowered

In the virtual environment, **FOCUS** is being in a distraction-free environment. No tvs, no cellphones, no little siblings vying for attention, no chores during school hours, and minimal conversation. A focused student can zero in on the teacher and the lesson on the screen.

Students and families show **RESPECT** by emailing or calling the teacher during non-instructional time to discuss concerns, which results in fewer interruptions to the class. We also show respect by using our Conflict Resolution policies and speaking directly with the person with whom we have the concern in a calm and solution-oriented manner. Respect is reciprocal - it's a give and a get notion.

We all hold the **RESPONSIBILITY** for making this a place where everyone wants to grow and learn. Students are responsible for coming to class, being focused, and turning in work on time. Teachers are responsible for preparing rigorous and attainable lessons, teaching accountability, and partnering with parents to ensure student success. Parents are responsible for making sure that students have everything they need to show-up and show what they know. If there is anything that the school can do to help your student be successful that is within our means, please contact Mrs. Hardy (dse1@sktcs.org) and we will do what we can.

Being **EMPATHIC** means walking in someone else's shoes. We are *a//*living through this pandemic together. Families are merging work and school together at the same time. Teachers are trying to balance the needs of their students with the needs of their children. Everyone has been impacted by COVID in some way - great or small. Showing empathy means understanding that today might just be a bad day and we need to work together and support one another to be successful.

SKTCS students are **EMPOWERED**. We do not fall down in front of an obstacle, we find ways to get over it, around it, or bust right through it. The world will be littered with easy-outs, but SKTCS students will always use their material, human, and cognitive resources to power through.

Being a member of the SKTCS family means committing to [conflict resolution](#):

The Conflict Resolution Process and Tools

At Susie King Taylor Community School, we try to follow this process whenever a conflict arises. The broad strokes of the process are:

1. Express your concern to the other party in the conflict with the goal of resolving the concern. Explain how the concern affects you personally, propose what you feel would be an appropriate remedy, and ask for the other party's help in coming up with a solution suitable to both parties.
2. If you are unable to resolve the conflict with the other party one on one, the next step is to go to the supervising party. In most cases at the school, that would be the School Director:
 1. The School Director will hear both sides' view of the conflict, and feelings on the appropriate remedy.
 2. The School Director will help both parties process the conflict and come to a resolution.
3. If no solution can be found with the supervising party, the last step is to take the conflict to the governing board.

In order to successfully resolve conflict, we suggest the following practices when approaching conflict resolution that have proven successful in the past:

- **Clarifying and focusing:** Sometimes, what we perceive as the issue is a symptom of something else and not the root cause. The first step in resolving the conflict is agreeing on what the conflict is, and then figuring out who needs to be involved in resolving it. In order to solve the root problem, we need to be willing to explore it collaboratively.
- **Active listening:** When we are presented with a conflict, our natural instinct is to defend ourselves. Unfortunately, that gets in the way of resolving the conflict when we're not open to examining the issue and potentially changing our behavior. The first step in doing that is to actively listen to the other party with openness and empathy and attempt to understand their point of view. That doesn't mean you have to agree with them. It just means you do your best to understand where they're coming from.
- **"I" Messages:** One of the most effective ways to express the effects of a conflict are to say how they affect you personally. Using statements like "I feel attacked when you talk to me like that" instead of "stop yelling at me" help build empathy with the other party and are more likely to make them feel less defensive.
- **Unity in the decision:** The goal of resolving the conflict is to get everyone involved to agree on the resolution and come away feeling like they were a part of the solution and not the "victim" of it. This process involves negotiation, compromise and empathy. We know it is *not easy*! But, coming to unity as early as possible and doing the hard work up front almost always keeps problems

from coming back up later and reduces the number of unintended consequences. It's also a great way to build trust among the community and ensure its long-term growth and survival.

- **Don't assume intent:** Focus on how the action affected you, not on possible motives. It will make resolving it easier and any conversation about it more effective if you can focus on how the action affected you personally and let the other person come to the realization of how their actions impact others. It's much easier (and often more effective) to call someone "in" by expressing how their action affected you, than it is to be seen as calling them "out" on what you perceive their intent to be.

Thank you for being a part of the SKTCS family and for being committed to the values that we instill in our students daily.

Re-enrollment is now open for current students.

Re-Enrollment Time!

It's that time of year again! Time for re-enrollment. Each year every family makes make a conscious and physical choice to reenroll for the next school year.

Re- enrollments are due by Friday February 26th

To do this, follow these very easy steps:

Step 1: Go to https://sktcs.schooladminonline.com/users/sign_up

Step 2: Look on the right side of the page where it says - "Sign In. Whatever you do - **DO NOT "Create an Account."** This will cause two records for your student to appear and that will be very confusing.

Step 3: A second screen will appear that looks much like the first. Go to the left side of the screen and use the credentials you used to complete your first application to sign in. If you can't remember your password, click "Forgot Password." If you can remember the email you used, email registration@sktcs.org and Ms. Ervin will assist you when we return in January.

Step 4: On the next screen you will see all of your students listed. There is also a nice green note that says "Please click the green button below ..." Ignore this instruction, there is no green button. However, there is a blue rectangle under each student's name that you need to click to re-enroll them for the 2021 - 22 school year.

Step 5:

If you have a **new student who has NEVER applied before**, who you would like to join us next year click "Add a New Student" to complete an application for 2021 - 22.

If you have a **student who has applied in a previous school year, but did not accept their invitation and/or was waitlisted**, please click "Apply for a New Year" to move their old application to the new school year.

Step 6: If your information (address, cell phone number, email, etc.) has changed in the last 12 months, please go into your account by clicking account at the top right of that screen) and update your information. All emails and text messages are sent from this program - not PowerSchool. So, although you may have sent your new information to the office, please make sure you have also updated it here.

Finally, please remember that as a charter school EVERY SEAT MATTERS. We are funded by enrollment. Therefore, if you are unsure if you are coming back, please wait to re-enroll until you are certain. **ONLY RE-ENROLL YOUR STUDENTS IF YOU ARE SURE that you will be living in Savannah in August and that SKTCS is the school for you.**

All re- enrollments are due by Friday February 26th, but the sooner you know, the sooner we can plan for next year. If you need extra time to make a decision, please let me know.

Here is the SKTCS board approved [2021 - 22 school calendar](#).

When Will We Return to School?



We know being home is a burden on some families and we are working very hard to get the doors open when it is [safest for our staff and students](#). To stay safe during COVID please follow these practices and [the guidelines specified by the Georgia Department of Health](#).

- Stay at home
- Wash your hands
- Avoid crowded places
- Use sanitizer
- Wear a mask
- Keep Distance
- Don't touch your face
- Use tissue

If you or someone in your home is:

- Diagnosed with COVID
- Exposed to someone with COVID
- Displaying COVID symptoms

Please quarantine yourself within your home. Do not come outside except to seek professional health assistance. Do not send your students to school or extra-curricular activities until the 14 -day window passes or a doctor has declared you non-contagious.



Remaining Progress Reports Dates for 2020 - 21

Third Quarter - February 5th 2021

Fourth Quarter - April 23, 2021

Progress Reports vs. Report Cards

Progress Reports are issued mid-way through every quarter. Progress Reports are not Report Cards. Progress Reports are a formal notice to parents about where their students are currently performing at the halfway mark of the grading period

Critical Decision Forms

Critical Decision Forms (CDF) may be issued with Progress Reports to families whose students are having a particular issue and/or are in danger of failing or being retained. Only students who are in danger will receive a Critical Decision Form.

Remaining Report Card Dates for 2020 - 21

Third Quarter - March 12, 2021

Fourth Quarter - May 21, 2021

Roles and Responsibilities

Faculty - Will maintain an accurate gradebook. Grades will be updated in PowerSchool no later than Sunday evening.

Families - Will check their PowerSchool portal as frequently as needed to stay abreast of students' progress and/or missing assignments.

While teachers will maintain constant contact with families as needed, families must also be vigilant and check their PowerSchool portal regularly. Families and/or faculty members have the right to call a conference at any time if a student's progress becomes a concern.



Technology Protection Plan (TPP) for Parents and Students



Technology Protection Plan (TPP)

for Parents and Students

SCCPSS is offering a family protection plan to offset repairs and/or replacement for the technology device that will be issued to students. A one-time charge of \$25* will cover accidental damage and 2 device replacements for the school year 2020-2021. Without the plan, parents/guardians are responsible for the full cost of repairs and/or replacement costs as stipulated in Administrative regulation ECH-R: Authorized Uses of Equipment and Supplies. See the table below for current pricing of repair parts.

I accept the Technology Protection Plan for my student's device and will pay \$25 when submitting this form to the school (Schools will define payment process)

Print Parent's Name	Parent's Signature	Date
Print Student's Name	Student's Signature (18+ of age)	Date
Parent's Phone Number		

Most Common Repair/Replacement	Cost
Chromebook Screen	\$50.00
Chromebook Keyboard	\$50.00
Chromebook AC Adapter with Power Cord	\$30.00
iPad Screen	\$65.00

-----Administrative use only below-----

Barcode/SN of Device

Received By

Date TPP Paid

*TPP for families with more than 4 students will not exceed \$100

NOTE: This is a one-time offer for SY 20-21. This Plan may be changed or discontinued without notice.
10/13/20

Traveling with technology is hard. We are happy to offer a family protection plan to offset repairs and/or replacement for the technology device that will be issued to students. A one-time charge of

\$25* will cover accidental damage and 2 device replacements for the school year 2020-2021. Without the plan, parents/guardians are responsible for the full cost of repairs and/or replacement costs as stipulated in the agreement that you signed when you took the device.

Insurance must be purchased BEFORE the computer is broken. If you would like to participate in a TPP for your student(s) please complete the form below. You can also download a copy from our website: <https://www.sktcs.org/tech-support>

How to participate:

1. Drop-off your cash or money order at SKTCS between the hours of 10 am and 2 pm.
2. Mail your payment to:

Susie King Taylor Community School
Attn: Quiana Aikens
Re: TPP Payment
1709 Bull St, Savannah, GA 31401

3. Send the forms with cash or money order in with your student. If you do this, please email Mrs. Q (business@sktcs.org) so that we may ensure that it is received by the office.

If there are any questions please contact Ms. Q at business@sktcs.org

SOLVE Scholarships



What are SOLVE Scholarships?

SOLVE scholarships are financial awards for qualifying families to help pay for their child to attend eligible programs while their child is engaged in virtual learning.

Who is Eligible?

- Families who meet income requirements, have a job or go to school, and **have a child or young adult ages 5 to 12, or up to age 22 for students with a qualifying disability, attending a school system that is primarily virtual (50% or more of classroom instruction is virtual for any grade level kindergarten-7th).**
- Providers with a license or certain exemptions that also accept CAPS Scholarships. Other types of providers may be approved for students with a qualifying disability.

To find eligible providers, call 1-877-ALL-GA-KIDS or visit <http://qualityrated.org/>

For details on SOLVE Scholarships, visit <http://www.decal.ga.gov/CAPS/Solve.aspx> or email Solve@decal.ga.gov



Photo Courtesy of YMCA of Western North Carolina

Tip Sheet for GA SOLVE Scholarship Applications

Tip Sheet to assist our **SCCPSS families of students with disabilities** ages 5 -22 to apply for the GA SOLVE Scholarships.

To receive SOLVE Scholarships, families with students with disabilities must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- There are no income requirements for families with a student with a disability.
- The parents must be attending work, school, or a combination of the two.
- The child or young adult must be enrolled in a Georgia charter school or public school system that is primarily offering virtual learning
- 50% or more of classroom instruction is virtual for any grade level kindergarten through 7th
- SCCPS students with disabilities are currently eligible for GA SOLVE*
- The child or young adult with disabilities must be age 5 up to age 22.

For Information about GA SOLVE: [Bright from the Start Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning \(ga.gov\)](https://www.ga.gov/earlycare).

*Eligible Georgia School Districts as of Jan 2021: [SOLVE_EligibleSchoolsDistricts.pdf](#)

Eligibility for Students with Disabilities: [SOLVE_EligibilityRequirementsforStudentsWithDisabilities.pdf](#)

Information about GA SOLVE Informal Providers: [SOLVE_InformalProviderRequirements.pdf \(ga.gov\)](#).

To Apply:

1- Go to [Georgia Gateway](#) or type in <https://gateway.ga.gov/access/>

- Click on one of the two bottom tabs
- Apply for a New SOLVE Scholarship
- Manage an Existing SOLVE Scholarship

2- Complete the Application as directed.

In Activity / Contact Information:

- While there are no income requirements for families of students with disabilities, parents will still need to enter their weekly income in the application.

In Child / Young Adult 1 Information:

- For school district, select Savannah Chatham County in Drop Down Box
- If your child attends the GNETS School (Coastal GA Comprehensive Academy/CGCA), you will select Savannah Chatham County as the district.
- Check the NO circle for Question: Is this child/young adult enrolled in a private school?
- Check the NO circle for Question: Is this child/young adult enrolled in a charter school? (All of the charter schools in SCCPSS are part of the SCCPSS)
- Check the YES circle which asks "Does this child/young adult have a disability"?

In Licensed/Exempt Provider Selection:

- ***YOU CAN USE LICENSED CHILDCARE PROVIDERS OR SELECT AN INDIVIDUAL TO PROVIDE CARE FOR YOUR CHILD/YOUNG ADULT.***
- For current Licensed Providers: Enter your Zip Code, and the licensed providers in your area will populate once you click the drop-down box. You will need to check with the provider to see if they have space to accommodate your child/young adult.
- You do not need to enter a provider in the Licensed/Exempt Provider Selection section: if you are using a licensed exempt provider like Employability or a private person. (More information about providers is available on the page in this section of the online application.)

Add Another Child/Young Adult

- Confirm that you have provided information for all the children/young adults in your household in need of care and currently enrolled in virtual learning.
- Note: The income exemptions/up to age 22 only apply for students with disabilities

Other Provider Information: For families with a child/young adult with disabilities may select an individual to provide care. Their chosen individual provider must complete/submit all required documents within 7 days of receiving the instructions from GA SOLVE!

- Complete the circle tab: I wish to select an individual to provide care for my children/young adults
- Complete the circle tab: Will care be provided in the home of the Child/Young Adult?
- List your chosen individual's info (name, email, contact phone number,
- address and relationship) to your child (drop down box)

- Your chosen Individual must complete and submit the requirements to GA SOLVE: link below https://www.decal.ga.gov/documents/attachments/SOLVE_InformalProviderRequirements.pdf

Home Address

- This section is for your personal information

Document Upload:

- You will need 2 documents: Disability documentation & verification of Enrollment in a SCCPSS school.
- You will need to upload a copy of your child's disability documentation. Here are the guidelines from GA Solve:
- Your child/young adult case manager/special education teacher can provide you a copy of your child/young adult's IEP. Ask for an electronic copy to be emailed directly to you.
- Acceptable verification can include any of the following:
 - Written diagnosis and statement of how the child's learning is impacted from a licensed medical specialist
 - an Individualized Family Service Plan (Part C of IDEA)
 - an Individualized Education Program (IEP).
 - an Individual Accommodation Plan (Section 504) that indicates how the child's learning is impacted
 - Medicaid waiver for persons with disabilities (Katie Beckett, NOW, or COMP)
- For Student Enrollment Verification, contact the Information Specialist at your child/young adult's school. Ask the form to be sent to you electronically.

Applicant Signature

- Type your name and submit



Chatham County Emergency Rental Assistance Program

The Chatham County Emergency Rental Assistance Program is intended to assist households that are unable to pay rent and utilities due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In accordance with the grant's guidelines, awarded funds must be used for direct financial assistance including rent, rental arrears, utilities, and utilities in arrears. Funds expire on December 31, 2021.

Qualified recipients will be prioritized for assistance on a weekly basis. The primary applicant should be the signee on the lease agreement and/or utility invoice. All applicants should provide documentation as proof of need. Prioritization of assistance include:

- At risk of eviction.
- The income of the household does not exceed 50% of the area median income for the household.
- One or more the individuals within the household are unemployed as of the date of the application for assistance and have not been employed for the 90-day period preceding the application date.

Any Chatham County resident in need of rental assistance should contact UWCE or EOA directly beginning Monday February 1, 2021.

UWCE- Dial 211 or (912)-651-7730

EOA- Dial (912)-438-8077 or go on-line to <https://eoarentalassistance.itfrontdesk.com/>

Van R. Johnson, II

Mayor

City of Savannah, GA



Nothing Bundt Cakes Youth Reading Program: Books and Bundts.

Local cake store "Nothing Bundt Cakes" is rewarding local students for reading!

- This program is for students Pre-K through 5th grade.
- Students will receive a free bundtlet cake for every 400 minutes read each month. They must record minutes read and have a parent signature.
- Students will also receive a certificate and have their picture taken!

The program is currently running through March 31, 2021.

[Nothing Bundt Cakes](#) is located at 1801 E Victory Dr., Suite 102, Savannah, GA 31404 next to Chipotle, across Victory Drive from IHOP.



In Search of...

For the 2021 - 22 School Year

[Special Education Teachers \(GRADES K-8\)](#)

[ELA Interventionist](#)

[Math Interventionist](#)

[Lead Gifted](#)

[Lower School \(K-5\) Teachers](#)

[MGA Spanish Teacher](#)



Save The Date:

Stay Connected!

Did you know you can link the school calendar to your phone so that you never miss a school event or the end of a marking period?! [Just click here!](#)

February 5

3rd Quarter Progress Reports available in Power School
Critical Decision Forms will be mailed.

February 11

6 pm: Current 5th Grade Families' Introduction to Middle Grades Academy (Link will be emailed to you)

February 15

All Day: No School for Students - Teacher Inservice Day
2 pm - 3 pm: K-8 Open House for Prospective Families

February 26

All Day: Re-enrollment Deadline
2:30 pm: All-School Black History Month Program (Platform TBD)

SKTCS 2020-21 Annual School Calendar



2020-2021 School Calendar

July '20						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August '20						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
					1	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September '20						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

11 Days

16 Days

October '20						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16*	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November '20						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December '20						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

20 Days

14 Days

14 Days

January '21						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8*	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

February '21						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

March '21						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19*	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

18 Days

19 Days

19 Days

April '21						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

May '21						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28*	29
30	31					

June '21						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

20 Days

15 Days

Total = 166

Color Key:

Teacher in-Service Day (no school for students)	Grades 4 - 7 Progress Reports
Report Card Conferences	First and Last Day of School
Virtual Learning Days	9 - week period ends
School Closed - Holiday	* Report Cards Issued