

BOARD OF EDUCATION
SUSSEX-WANTAGE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

27 Bank Street
Sussex, NJ 07461
973-875-3175
FAX: (973) 875-7175

MICHAEL GALL
SUPERINTENDENT
E-mail: mgall@swregional.org

CHRISTINA M. RIKER
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR
E-mail: criker@swregional.org

Brenda VanWarner
Administrative Assistant

Nancy Sisto
Administrative Assistant

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Dear Sussex-Wantage Community,

I am writing to provide you with an update on our operational plan moving forward. Please be aware that beginning **Monday, March 22nd**, school will transition to full days. At this time, Wednesday will remain virtual for everyone. However, we anticipate incorporating that in the near future and will keep you posted.

Students Who Are Currently Remote

As we indicated at the beginning of the school year, parents and guardians can change their child's designation with the beginning of each new marking period. The next marking period change is directly after spring break. If you would like to transition from full remote to in-person instruction at that time, please complete the following survey link by Tuesday, March 23rd. As a reminder, parents can choose a full remote option at any time.

Link to Transition to In-Person Instruction After Spring Break:

<https://forms.gle/cofpdpmCdnWwCNABA>

Food Service

Students who attend school in person will eat on campus during the school day. At CEL students will eat in their classrooms. At WES and SMS students will use multiple spaces within each building to eat while maintaining an adequate social distance. Parents and guardians of fully remote students will also still be able to pick up breakfast and lunch items via Sussex Middle School.

Social Distancing

Social distancing to the extent practicable will be reinforced throughout the school day. In moving forward, there will continue to be instances throughout the day when students may be closer than

six feet. In those instances we will strive to mitigate those challenges through the continued use of masks and other plexiglass barriers. Only visitors with appointments will be permitted to enter the building, and, whenever possible, parent and community meetings will continue to be convened virtually.

Face Coverings

Face coverings continue to be mandatory for faculty, staff, and students. Cloth face coverings that cover both the mouth *and* nose are recognized as acceptably protective. Please note: all dress code expectations apply.

Screenings

We continue to ask parents and guardians to self screen their children at home prior to coming to school for illness or a temperature above 100°F. Screenings will also be conducted at school upon arrival. It is critically important that any students who have a fever or exhibit signs or symptoms of any illness not come to school. If you have travelled to an area identified as having a travel advisory, please adhere to the NJDOH travel guidelines found here:

<https://covid19.nj.gov/faqs/nj-information/travel-and-transportation/which-states-are-on-the-travel-advisory-list-are-there-travel-restrictions-to-or-from-new-jersey>

Student/Staff Safety and Hygiene

Reinforcement of proper hygiene such as regular handwashing, the use of hand sanitizer, and social distancing to the extent practicable will take place for all students and staff. Hand sanitizing stations have been provided to every classroom and strategically placed at other multiple locations throughout each building.

Pre-K

At this time the Pre-K schedule will remain status quo.

Procedures for Possible Cases of COVID-19

As a reminder, the unfortunate reality is that despite our best collective efforts, we will still have instances of COVID-19. In those unfortunate circumstances, the Department of Health will continue to make an initial assessment of how to respond to the specific circumstance. Depending upon the issue their recommendations may range from a 24 hour transition to remote instruction to obtain more information and conduct contact tracing to closing individual classrooms or the entire district for quarantine. In the event a confirmed case arises, stakeholders will continue to be informed while maintaining confidentiality. These notifications are required by the NJDOE.

Reminders from the Nurse

The New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) recommends that any child with COVID-19 compatible symptoms should not return to school until they have either received a negative viral test (molecular or antigen) for SARS-CoV-2 or they have completed an isolation period of at least

10 days since symptom onset and at least 72 hours after resolution of fever without fever-reducing medications and with symptom improvement. A purely clinical alternative diagnosis is no longer acceptable.

If a child presents to the health office with the symptoms noted above, you will be called to pick your child up and follow the NJDOH guidelines. We are asking that you make arrangements to be sure your child is able to be picked up in a timely manner. The NJDOH has given schools guidelines for when to isolate a child and exclude them from school. If you have any questions or concerns, any of our nurses would be happy to speak with you.

At this time, the guidelines read:

“At least two of the following symptoms: chills, rigors (shivers), myalgia (muscle aches), headache, sore throat, nausea (stomachache) or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion or runny nose.

OR

At least one of the following symptoms: fever, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new olfactory disorder, new taste disorder.”

We reiterate our commitment to remain adaptable to our local and regional health conditions, and state and federal guidelines for operating schools. We perceive that by continuing to act cautiously, it provides us with the best opportunity to accomplish that in a safe manner. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child’s school.

Sincerely,

Michael Gall
Superintendent/CEL Principal