

BOARD OF EDUCATION
SUSSEX-WANTAGE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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August 3, 2020

Greetings to all Sussex-Wantage Families. I hope this correspondence finds you and your families well as you enjoy your summer. In this correspondence I am writing to provide you with an update to the most pressing questions you may have relevant to the anticipated reopening of school. Please know that the plan and details that follow are not the result of one meeting or a series of meetings. Rather, they reflect the collaborative efforts of a team of stakeholders in our school community as well as the framework provided by the New Jersey Department of Education.

As you may be aware, Governor Murphy, along with the New Jersey Department of Education released "[The Road Back](#)" guidance document and asked school districts to create their local plans for reopening schools. As you review the plan and the summary of the key components outlined below, please keep in mind that all aspects of the plan were created with the safety of our students, staff, and school community as the top priority.

Cohort Schedule

Initially, we will be employing a hybrid model of schooling that combines in-person instruction with remote learning. Specifically, our student body will be divided into two cohorts, identified by "A" or "B" groups. The first two weeks of school will operate as half days. Students will attend school in-person on an alternating schedule as part of their assigned "A" or "B" cohort. The schedule for a typical school week under this model is as follows:

- Monday- A Cohort
- Tuesday- B Cohort
- Wednesday- All Remote
- Thursday- A Cohort
- Friday- B Cohort

This model reflects our current and anticipated local health conditions and operates according to the existing guidance from the State Department of Education published in its "Road Back" document. It also enables us to react to changing local conditions and is

coordinated with our region to the greatest extent possible.

Social Distancing

Social distancing will be enforced throughout the school day. Only visitors with appointments will be permitted to enter the building, and, whenever possible, parent and community meetings will be convened virtually. We will review all procedures and protocols with students during the first days of school.

Face Coverings

Face coverings are required. Any cloth face covering that covers both the mouth *and* nose is recognized as acceptably protective. It is recommended that parents begin the process of acclimating their child(ren) to wearing masks over extended periods of time as we lead up to the opening of the school year. This is an essential precaution we must take for everyone's safety. Such practice will make the students' transition to the new protocols easier. Note: all dress code expectations apply.

Screenings

We are asking parents and guardians to self screen their children at home prior to coming to school for illness or a temperature above 100 degrees. Screenings will also be conducted at school upon arrival. Any students who have a fever or exhibit signs or symptoms of illness will be isolated in a location that ensures dignity while his/her parents are contacted to pick up their child.

Student/Staff Safety and Hygiene

Students and staff who have underlying health conditions and are considered to be of "higher risk" will have accommodations made for them. Education and practice on hygiene such as regular handwashing, the use of hand sanitizer, and social distancing will take place for all students and staff. Hand washing will take place regularly and hand sanitizing stations will be provided to every classroom and strategically placed at other multiple locations throughout the building.

Lunch

Lunch service will be suspended during the first two weeks of school. For those families participating in the free and reduced school lunch program, we will continue our dissemination of breakfast and lunch from Sussex Middle School. More information will follow.

Transportation

As the cohort model will result in reduced ridership on our bus routes, students will be able to physically distance more significantly on the bus. However, we will not be able to maintain a distance of 6 feet so students must wear masks at all times while on the school bus and bus stops.

Extracurricular Activities

Sports, extracurricular activities, concerts, and field trips are suspended until further notice.

Remote Learning Option

As per Governor Murphy, if you have personal health concerns or if individual circumstances otherwise compel you to have your child participate in school in a fully remote environment, please contact your child's school to notify them.

Attendance, Grading, School Policies

All standard school policies remain in place. Grading will return to a traditional format. Students and staff who are feeling unwell have always been encouraged to stay home in the past. Under the current conditions, this encouragement has become stronger and a necessity. If your child is feeling sick please keep him/her home from school until he/she is symptom free and fever free for 72 hours.

Standard Summer Information for Families: Important "Summer Mailing" documents including those requiring student and parent review and digital signature such as our district Acceptable Use Policy for technology, along with applications for insurance and free and reduced lunch service are being updated and will be available on our Parent Portal in the near future. Cohort information will also be disseminated in the near future.

We reiterate our commitment to remain adaptable to our local and regional health conditions, and state and federal guidelines for operating schools. The ultimate goal will always be not just a full return to school for all students and educators, but to keep schools open. We perceive that by acting cautiously, it provides us with the best opportunity to accomplish that in a safe manner. We also understand that this is a less than ideal circumstance and it is only through collaboration, cooperation, patience, and perseverance that we can overcome this unprecedented challenge.

Sincerely,

Michael Gall
Superintendent/CEL Principal

Important Links:

<https://www.swregional.org/Page/539>

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