

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
**SUSSEX-WANTAGE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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August 23, 2021

Dear Sussex-Wantage Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year! I hope this letter finds you and your families well as you enjoy your remaining summer vacation. I know that you join me in excitement to welcome our students back. I am sincerely proud of our achievements and grateful for the collaboration that you have exhibited throughout perhaps the most challenging circumstance to ever impact our school community. I know the beginning of the year is an exciting, celebratory time. In that regard, we remain resolute in our commitment to academic excellence, innovative practices, and above all else, fostering an environment focused on the health and safety of our students, faculty, and staff. I look forward to working with you to overcome the challenges we will continue to face throughout the year. I have included some important information for your review below.

- The first day of school for students is Tuesday, September 7, 2021
- Beginning in September 2021, the district will move to **Realtime Notification** from *Honeywell* as our primary means of communication for school closings, emergencies and general notifications. Parents/Guardians **will need to update your contact information and complete a series of yes or no questions prior to accessing features like your child's schedule or homeroom teacher.** The Realtime Parent Portal is now open. If you have any issue logging into your parent portal account please email or contact your child's school secretaries for assistance. Parents of incoming KDG students were already mailed login information via hard copy.
- In addition, each school will be holding an "open house" on: Thursday, August 26th and Monday, August 30th from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. to tour the building. Please wear a face covering and adhere to social distancing per Governor Murphy. **Please note that teachers will not be available during this time.**
- **School Schedule-** We will implement a fully in person traditional schedule. There are no cohorts.

- **In-Person Learning Only-** This year parents **do not** have the option of 100% remote instruction. Remote learning will only be offered if students have to quarantine for Covid-19 as determined by the NJDOH. No other remote learning will be offered for general illness nor absence.
- **Masks-** Governor Murphy has mandated through an [executive order](#) that students and staff will be **required** to wear masks throughout the school day while indoors and on buses. When students are outside for physical education or recess they may remove their masks.
- **Immunizations CEL-** A reminder for all incoming kindergarten students, immunization records and physicals are due to Mrs. Anderson the school nurse, before school starts in September. Please mail, fax, or drop off the records as soon as possible. The Clifton E Lawrence address and fax number are found on the [district website](#).
- **Immunizations SMS-** A reminder for all incoming 6th Grade students, immunization records and physicals are due to Mrs. Silletti-Cayer the school nurse, before school starts in September. Please mail, fax, or drop off the records as soon as possible. The Sussex Middle School address and fax number can be found on the [district website](#).
- **Student/Staff Safety and Hygiene-** Education and practice on hygiene practices 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.
- **Attendance and Illness-** 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 24 hours. If students have Covid like symptoms and we are in a moderate or high infection area, they *may* have to quarantine in consultation with the Department of Health.
- **Social Distancing- *To the extent practicable***, social distancing will be practiced in our building and throughout our campus. Our campus will be full of signage that encourages, reminds, and delineates social distancing as well as proper hygiene practices.
- **Transportation-** District-provided bussing will be provided as it always has in the past. Social distancing cannot be guaranteed and students will be required to wear a mask at all times. Buses will continue to be cleaned and sanitized on a regular daily basis. We will continue to implement the same pick up and drop off procedures as the previous school year. To the extent possible, family members will sit together.
- **Health Screenings-** Parents will ultimately be responsible for their children's health screenings prior to entering the building each day. We are not conducting temperature screenings upon arrival. We ask that parents do that at home. Any students who

have a fever or exhibit signs or symptoms of illness will be isolated in a location that ensures student confidentiality and dignity while his/her parents are contacted to pick up their child.

- **Symptomatic Students and Staff-** Under the unfortunate circumstance that a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, school officials will notify local health officials, staff, and families while ensuring the confidentiality of the student or staff member that has been diagnosed. We will work closely with our school nurse as well as the Sussex County Department of Health to ensure all contact tracing measures are performed and all applicable families are notified. Under the continued guidance of the Sussex County Department of Health, quarantine requirements will be communicated for those affected by the diagnosis. As quarantine rules change, we will make you aware of any important changes or updates.
- Students or staff who test positive with Covid 19 must quarantine for 10 days and be symptom free to return.
- Students and staff who are not vaccinated and are *designated* as a close contact of someone who tested positive with Covid 19 must quarantine for 14 days.
- Students and staff who are vaccinated or tested positive for Covid 19 in the past 90 days and recovered do not need to quarantine.
- **Visitors-** Visitors will be limited and only allowed for pertinent purposes. If it is determined that a visitor must enter our building, they will be required to wear a protective face covering at all times.
- **Facilities Cleaning and Sanitizing-** During the current health circumstances and beyond our cleaning and sanitizing practices will be appropriately elevated. After school hours on a nightly basis, the building will be cleaned with EPA-approved products that are certified to kill the virus that causes COVID-19.
- **Meals-** Students at SMS and WES will have lunch in the cafeteria and through the use of additional locations as necessary to socially distance. Students at CEL will begin the year with lunch in the classroom. All students are eligible for free lunch this year.
- **Lockers-** At this time, SMS students will use and have intermittent access to lockers.
- **Recess and Physical Education-** Physical Education will take place outdoors as much as possible and in the gymnasium with proper precautions taken. Masks can be removed when outside.
- **Field Trips, Extra-Curricular Activities, and Use of Facilities by Outside Organizations-** School-sponsored field trips may be scheduled this year depending on the destination, risk level, transportation, and availability of the venues. At this time, we have planned to conduct extracurricular activities such as clubs, sports, etc...
- **Technology Needs-** If students are required to quarantine and pivot to remote learning, students may need laptops or other technology devices. As you are

probably aware, WES and SMS are issued devices and CEL students will be provided with devices as necessary.

- **After Care/Before Care-** Our Before/After Care program will once again be offering before and after care in our facility on a daily basis. Please contact them directly for more information at WES (973) 875-4589.

I wanted to make sure that you have all of the information you need and understand that our District has taken the measures that are required to safely reopen our school building. Your continued feedback and support will help make our return successful. As always, if you have any questions please reach out to your child's school. Please note that these procedures and rules continue to change on a regular basis and are subject to modification.

I know the entire District faculty and staff join me in saying that we look forward to working with you throughout the year. Best wishes to you and your children for an amazing and safe school year!

Sincerely,

Michael Gall  
Superintendent/Principal CEL