

Scarborough Public Schools

Weekly Newsletter - October 15, 2021

Meet the New Pleasant Hill School Interim Principal

At a special Board of Education meeting on October 12, 2021, Brem Stoner was officially appointed as the Interim Principal of Pleasant Hill School. Brem is currently the Assistant Principal at Wentworth School, and has served in this capacity for over three years. Prior to serving as an elementary school leader, Brem taught in elementary school classrooms for 15 years, in South Portland, Gray-New Gloucester, as well as in Bellevue, Washington. He received his Bachelors at Keene State College, and his M.Ed and CAS graduate degrees from University of Southern Maine.



Given Brem's current position at Wentworth, there will be some transition time between now and when he will be able to assume full time responsibilities at Pleasant Hill; Joanne Sizemore, previous Assistant Superintendent for Scarborough Schools, will continue serving as Pleasant Hill Interim Principal until Brem can assume full-time responsibilities.

After reviewing the overwhelmingly positive feedback from the interview committee, composed of school district leaders, Pleasant Hill staff, parents, and Board of Education members, as well as conversations with Mr. Stoner's professional references, Scarborough School's is excited to welcome Brem to the Pleasant Hill School community as their new building leader. Brem resides in Southern Maine with his wife, son and daughter, and a third child due this month!



Upcoming Referendum for Turf and Track

As you may know the turf field and track surfaces are much past their normal life expectancy, nearly 8 years past that time.... On November 2, there will be a ballot question and an opportunity to change that

Shall the Order entitled “**ORDER AUTHORIZING ISSUANCE OF UP TO \$1,900,800 IN BONDS OF THE TOWN TO FUND THE COST OF THE HIGH SCHOOL TURF FIELD AND TRACK REPLACEMENT**” be approved?

We hope you join us in our efforts to spread the word to Vote on November 2. I am not sure if you are aware but our turf/track facility is in such poor condition that we do not know season to season whether it will be playable or not.

Project History

The track was first installed in 1979. In 2006, the track underwent a second resurfacing and the original turf was installed. Since then, there has been ongoing maintenance to support the active use of both amenities. A typical lifespan for a turf surface is eight- ten years (reached in 2016). It has surpassed its lifespan and is beyond the point of being remedied by general maintenance alone. There are safety concerns brought on by the deterioration of surface material and tripping hazards on the field.

Sports and activities are vital to the education of students to help support well-rounded and civic minded adults. Students learn lifelong lessons that complement the academic lessons taught in the classroom, and these programs cost just over 2% of the overall school’s budget. We are proud of our school system as people move to Scarborough in part, because of its schools and our athletics/activities programs. **Good schools make good communities.**

Impact if Approved

This renovation project does not only benefit student athletes; it benefits the community and user groups of all ages. There are nearly 18 different groups who use the turf and track, ranging from students, athletes, community services program participants, residents, youth sports leagues and clubs. From the Fall of 2018 to Summer of 2019, this amounted to 1,100 hours of scheduled use for various activities and programs.

Impact if Not Approved

If not approved, the damage will worsen and cost to fix will rise. This was proven true when it was not approved in the 2019 referendum at \$1.2 million. The current project cost is an estimated \$1.9 million. It also faces the potential for closure when safety risks become too high. Closure of the facility would impact programming offered through the School Department as well as increase the demand on other

town fields. Closure would also affect much of the youth programming offered through Community Services and private clubs. Additionally, there would be potential costs for the schools to rent facilities outside of Scarborough to continue offering existing athletic programs.

The decisions we make on November 2nd related to the turf/track project affect our children's daily lives. Elections are our chance to stand up for what matters most to us and to have an impact on the issues that affect us, our communities, our families and our future. Please be educated when you go to the polls on November 2nd to vote....

[IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT SCARBOROUGH'S TURF/TRACK PROJECT](#)

Communication about Positive COVID Cases in Our Schools

Here is our weekly snapshot of school-related cases. Close contacts are being communicated in 2 columns, whereas the Maine CDC exempts people from school quarantine if they have classroom only contact (since we are universally masking), are fully vaccinated, or actively participating in pooled testing.

Positive COVID cases at Scarborough Public Schools
October 1, 2021 to October 15, 2021

Location	Total Case # in last 14 days	Total # Close Contacts quarantined from school and community	Total # Close Contacts quarantined from community only
Blue Point School	0	0	0
Eight Corners School	3	0	0
Pleasant Hill School	0	0	0
Wentworth School	2	20	8
Scarborough Middle School	2	4	26
Scarborough High School	4	13	11
District (non-school)	0	0	0
TOTAL	11	37	45

Pooled Testing Information and Reminders

Pooled testing started successfully at our K-2 schools: Blue Point, Eight Corners, and Pleasant Hill. We are now expanding to Wentworth School, with testing beginning on October 18 and 19.



If you are still in need of sign up and consent information, please refer to the Pooled Testing article in the [September 17, 2021 newsletter](#) to get the links you will need.

Assessment Updates

Fall State Testing



This year, all Maine public schools are required to administer the Maine Educational Assessments or MEAs for English/Language Arts and Mathematics to all students in grades 3-8 and 3rd year of high school. These tests measure key knowledge and skills in the areas of our curriculum which reflect the Maine State Standards.

New this year, students will be taking these assessments in the fall and again in the spring for the purpose of measuring their growth specifically in the areas of reading, language usage, and mathematics. We are excited about this development as the assessments themselves are shorter in duration, results are more quickly available, and the focus is on student growth over time.

The MEAs for English/Language Arts and Mathematics are the [NWEA MAP Growth Tests](#). Students will be taking these tests online while in school between Oct. 4 and 29th and then again between May 2 and 27th. School leadership is working hard at scheduling to minimize the disruption to the instructional day. Students will be taking three assessments, Reading, Language Usage, and Mathematics. Each test session will take approximately 45-60 minutes. More specific details will be provided by each school.

The data is very important to us as it will assist us in making improvements to our curriculum and instruction. As the Literacy and Math results will be available to teachers sooner than in the past, the information will assist teachers in planning for their students' instruction this fall as well as measuring growth in the spring. While an 'opt out' option is not available, we do wish to partner with parents to make decisions in the best interest of our students. If you have concerns regarding your child's participation, please contact either your child's guidance counselor, principal, or me.

We appreciate your support as we look forward to using the data from these assessments to inform teaching and learning.

i-Ready Testing Continues at Certain Grades



This year students in grades K-2 and 9 will continue to use the i-Ready Diagnostic Assessment. i-Ready is an online program for reading and mathematics that will help us determine your child's strengths and areas for growth and personalize their instruction. i-Ready allows us to meet your child where they are. The i-Ready Diagnostic is an adaptive assessment that adjusts its questions to suit your child's needs. Each item a student receives is based on their answer to the previous question. For example, a series of correct answers will result in slightly harder questions, while a series of incorrect answers will yield slightly easier ones. The purpose of this is not to give your child a score or grade but to determine how to best support their learning. It is not a placement test. Our teachers use the information to help them identify where to target their instruction.

There are two sessions, one for reading and one for mathematics. Each session is about 45 to 50 minutes. And similar to the State NWEA tests, we assess in the fall (Oct.) to learn more about what a child knows and in the spring (May) to measure and celebrate growth.

For students in grades K-2, i-Ready Personalized Instruction provides students with online lessons based on their individual strengths and areas for growth as a result of the assessment. These lessons are interactive and provide strategic support to keep your child engaged as they learn. Teachers can also adjust the lessons if necessary. This online instruction tool is available throughout the year to support their growth in both reading and mathematics. More specific information will be sent via your child's school and teacher. Thank you for your continued support and for being a partner in your child's learning! You can learn more about i-Ready by visiting [i-ReadyCentral.com/FamilyCenter](https://www.i-ReadyCentral.com/FamilyCenter).

Outdoor Learning in the Wentworth School Garden



Messaging from the Sources of Strength Club at SHS



Health & Safety

Please make sure you review the **UPDATED Student Health Self Assessment** questions for 2021-22 below **EVERY DAY** before sending your child off to school.

TOGETHER, we can make our schools as safe as possible!



UPDATED Pre-Screening Tool

Please note that the **Pre-Screening Tool** (shown below) was updated on September 28, 2021 by the Maine DOE to include "new cough" as a listed symptom for staying home. This isn't a change in symptoms for COVID-19.

Pre-Screening Tool for School Attendance

Within the past 24 hours have you had a fever* or taken fever reducing medicine?

YES =



Do you feel sick, had vomiting/diarrhea, fever*, sore throat, new cough, or felt unwell?

YES =



Have you been told to stay home and isolate/quarantine due to COVID-19 exposure?

YES =



Stay home with any YES response to the questions above.

Attend school when all answers are NO and your child is feeling well with no other symptoms of illness. Call or see your school nurse or other designated person at school if you have questions.

IF YOUR CHILD HAS ANY ILLNESS THEY SHOULD STAY AT HOME UNTIL NO FEVER FOR 24 HOURS WITHOUT TAKING FEVER REDUCING MEDICATION AND SYMPTOMS ARE IMPROVING OR GONE.

*A fever is 100.4F/38C or greater.



Updated 9.28.2021



2021-2022 Breakfast & Lunch Ordering Protocols

As a general reminder, all breakfast and lunch meals for all students in Scarborough Schools are free for this school year 2021-2022. All existing students whose parents have an account will be able to order breakfast and lunch using the same procedure as last year, from the Nutrislice app on a device or at <https://www.scarboroughschools.org/> (at the top of the page click "Quick links", then go to School Lunch for all meal menus).

All Kindergarten and new students to the district will have to make a Nutrislice account through the Nutrislice app or through <https://scarboroughschools.nutrislice.com/menu/create-account> before they can order breakfast and lunch. Parents will need the child's ID# before they can start the registration process.

For breakfast meals in all of our schools, you can order online on the same day before 6:30 AM, while for lunch meals, you can order online on the same day before 7:30 AM. You can order meals for the day, or set up a weekly or monthly plan for meals to be provided to your children. The menus for all

meals for a new month will be posted on the school's website and on the Nutrislice app the last Monday at the end of the previous month.

Each school has created their own system for their lunch disbursement. They are continually reviewing the process and making modifications as needed. Please be patient with our school staff as they work towards improving and refining their daily lunch routines.

Please call or email Brenda Franklin at 207-730-4700 or bfranklin@scarboroughschools.org for any help or questions or if you need the child's ID#.



New SPS Website has been Launched!

Our team at Scarborough Public schools has spent the last few months working to create a brand new website, and are excited to announce that it has been launched to the Scarborough Schools community!

Please take a moment to watch the video below, and preview what new features are in store as we share our new district website.

[Watch New SPS Introduction Video](#)

Images From Our Schools

Resources for Parents

- Podcast and Post: (Season 4 Episode 1) [Back To School! 4 Ways to Boost Your Kids' Mental Health](#)
- Article: [How Your Kids Can Have Fun Without Stressing You Out](#)
- Reviews: [For what your kids are into \(before they get into it\)](#)





Upcoming SPS Events - Mark Your Calendar!

[2021-2022 School Calendar](#)

- **November 2** - Election Day* - Scarborough High School - 7:00am-8:00pm
- **November 4** - School Board Meeting
- **November 11** - Veterans' Day - No School
- **November 17** - Early Release**

*For more information on Election Day, please see the [Town's website](#).

** - K-5 - Release Time - 1:45pm

6-12 Release Time - 12:55pm

Links to Our Schools



Blue Point



Eight Corners



Pleasant Hill



Wentworth School



Middle School



High School

Services & Information

[Spec. Services](#) | Alison Marchese, amarchese@scarboroughschools.org

[Transportation](#) | Sarah Redmond, sredmond@scarboroughschools.org

[Food Services](#) | Peter Esposito, pesposito@scarboroughschools.org

[Athletics & Activities](#) | Mike LeGage, mlegage@scarboroughschools.org

[Curriculum](#) | Monique Culbertson, mculbertson@scarboroughschools.org

[Community Services](#) | Todd Souza, tsouza@scarboroughmaine.org




Tech Support


For technology assistance with SPS student laptops, please send a message to techsupport@scarboroughschools.org and someone from Technology will be in touch to assist you.



Scarborough Schools

 Facebook  @scarbmeschools

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 scarboroughschools.org