

Scarborough Public Schools

Weekly Newsletter - January 7, 2022

Message from the Superintendent

To our Scarborough Schools community: thank you for your continued diligence and commitment to all our students as we navigated a challenging week returning to our schools and classrooms following the winter break. The health and safety of our students, staff, and families continue to be at the forefront of all our efforts as we weather this spike in cases by diligently following our COVID protocols and mitigation strategies. To our staff: your efforts this week have been above and beyond - thank you for all you do to ensure our students get to school and learn in our classrooms safely.



At last night's meeting, the Board of Education officially endorsed the updated and revised Maine DOE/CDC/DHHS Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) document as well as approved the use of at-home COVID antigen tests. The Board agenda that was shared with the staff and community made it appear to some as if there was a new COVID response plan being unveiled for a board vote. This was not the case. My update was designed to outline the changes made to the Maine CDC SOP all school districts are expected to follow with respect to responding to COVID-19, in preparation for the board to officially vote and approve. My apologies to those who might have been confused about this, as it generated unnecessary anxiety during a very difficult week! I would like to extend a special thanks to the school district's consulting physician, Dr. John Fanburg, for his counsel this week and contributions during our school board meeting and presentation Thursday night.

I encourage you to access the slides for the last night's meeting; the superintendent's update section outlines the highlights to the Maine CDC SOP document, provides a snapshot of where we are currently with positive cases and pooled testing at each of our schools, and reinforces the importance of maintaining our universal masking mandate for all students and staff.

[BOE Meeting Slides: January 6, 2022](#)

[Updated Maine CDC SOP](#)

As I continue to collaborate with others across Cumberland County, it is clear to me that Scarborough continues to lead in implementing effective COVID mitigation strategies including universal masking for all students/staff, high vaccination rates among our students and staff, and successfully

implementing pooled testing in all schools K-12. Thank you for your diligence in making the health and safety and overall well-being of our students a priority across our community.

Regards,

Geoff Bruno
Superintendent of Schools

K-5 Students to Engage in i-Ready Reading Beginning this Month



In our efforts to enhance learning for all K-5 students in reading, students in grades K-5 will be taking the i-Ready Reading Diagnostic assessment in January and will be engaging in i-Ready Personalized Instruction, or My Path reading lessons throughout the spring. The assessment takes a total of approximately 60 minutes, typically split into two sessions. The My Path (online) lessons will average approximately 40 to 50 minutes per week. Both will take place at school. Students will take the reading diagnostic again in May to measure and celebrate growth.

The decision to expand the assessment and My Path lessons across K-5 comes as a result of recommendations from teachers and building and district leadership. The decision came as a way to focus our efforts on reading and to use online tools that individualize the learning for each student. And lastly, these are tools that both students and teachers are familiar with. This will supplement our core reading instructional program, not replace it.

My Path lessons meet each student where they are, targeting activities at their learning readiness level. The diagnostic assessment results set specific My Path lessons for each student. This is how the online lessons are 'personalized' for each student. So whether a student needs support in certain areas of reading or enrichment, each student has their 'path' of instruction. There are also offline activities that teachers can use as well.

If you have any questions about i-Ready, please do not hesitate to contact Monique Culbertson, Director of Curriculum and Assessment, or your child's teacher or principal. You can also learn more about i-Ready by visiting i-ReadyCentral.com/FamilyCenter. As always, thank you for your support as a partner in your child's learning!



COVID Dashboard

Here is a snapshot of positive COVID cases in our school district for this week. Whereas there was an in-depth review of our current status at last evening's board meeting, including the status of pool

testing at each of our sites, we are sharing that information with you here.

As the number of cases grow exponentially in our community and across the state, we would again remind you to **please keep your student home from school if they are experiencing symptoms on the daily Pre-Screening Tool for School Attendance**, which is included in this newsletter.

POOL TESTING RESULTS NOTE: You will also note that pool testing results have been delayed this week from the state labs who process our testing, and because of today's snow day and not being able to test positive pools as we generally would have, families should watch for emails from their individual school with further instruction if their child was part of a positive pool.

	Total # of Positive Pools this week	Total # of Pools tested each week	Total # of people participating in Pool Testing	Total # of students and staff at each site	Total # of cases that were reported this week
Blue Point	2	16	199	247	13
Eight Corners	4	17	226	279	11
Pleasant Hill	4	14	184	223	13
Wentworth	9 to date*	41	531	756	36
SMS	6 to date*	48	436	818	56
SHS	6	37	336	1074	74
District level	1 to date*	7	37	57	2
TOTAL	32	180	1,949	3,447	205

*still getting results from provider at the time of this publication

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!



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 =



Most Common Symptoms of COVID-19:

Cough
Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
Fever *
Chills
Sore throat
New loss of taste or smell

Less Common Symptoms:

Muscle pain
Nausea or Vomiting
Stomach pain
Diarrhea
Fatigue
Headache
Rash
Swelling or redness of hands/feet
Red eyes/eye drainage
Congestion/ runny nose

*Fever is 100.4°F/38°C regardless of measurement location (oral, temporal)

Stay home with any YES response to the questions above.

Symptoms of illness can have many causes. Please keep your student home and contact your school nurse or primary care provider if your student is unwell. Students who present with symptoms while in school will be dismissed to home at the discretion of the nurse.

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



Updated 10.19.2021



Resources for Parents

- [15 Questions to Replace 'How Was School Today?'](#)
- [How Four Deep Breaths Can Help Kids Calm Down](#)
- [How Toxic Stress Affects Us, and What We Can Do About It](#)



Upcoming SPS Events - Mark Your Calendar!

[2021-2022 School Calendar](#)

- **January 12** - *Early Release
- **January 17** - Martin Luther King Jr. Day - No School (Staff or Students)
- **January 20** - School Board Meeting

*Early Release Times:

K-5 - 1:45PM

6-12 - 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

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 scarboroughschools.org

