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## SASD Phase 3 of Reopening: Action Needed from Families by Monday

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03/10/2021

**Stoughton Area School District**

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### Phase 3 of Reopening: Action Needed from Families by MONDAY

*CC: SASD staff*

Dear SASD families,

On March 13, 2020, I sat down with our district leaders as we planned for emergency virtual learning. At the end of the meeting, I said “See you in two weeks,” thinking we’d be back to normal after spring break 2020.

Little did we know that our oldest learners would be out of in-person school for 333 days while our youngest learners would be out of in-person school for 249 days.

One year later I am hopeful: We have multiple successful vaccines for the virus, the beginnings of looser restrictions in Dane County, and more students in our buildings. At the same time, our students are struggling academically and social-emotionally.

Evaluating this combination of increased staff and community vaccinations, lower case counts in Dane County, and the negative impact of the pandemic on our students and families, **it is**

**essential and now possible under county guidelines to bring more students back to school in person in the Stoughton Area School District.**

We are calling this next step “Phase 3 of Reopening.” Phase 1 of Reopening was enhanced virtual learning, Phase 2 was a hybrid learning and now Phase 3 is a return to in-person learning 5 days a week with restrictions.

This email will:

1. Outline our timeline of presenting Phase 3 plans to the Board of Education
2. Review new and loosened restrictions from Public Health Madison & Dane County that allow us to bring more students back to school
3. Review our health & safety requirements, and
4. Ask all families with students in grades 3-12 to **complete our survey by Monday, March 15 at 8 a.m.** Families with students in grades K-2 should only complete the survey if they wish to change their child’s placement.

## Presenting to the Board of Education

In the next month, we will propose to our Board of Education to allow us to bring back all students in person 5 days a week. Honoring family choice, full-time virtual learning remains an option for all families.

We want to remind families that before we make any major reopening changes, the administration must present plans to the Board of Education, and the Board must approve them. In other words, we will not make any changes to our school model before Board approval.

**On Monday, March 15, we will propose plans to the Board of Education to allow us to bring back all students in grades K-5 who wish to attend school 5 days a week. Our proposed start date for the change is Monday, April 5. The Board must approve this plan before it’s set in action.**

On Monday, April 5, we are planning to propose plans to the Board of Education to allow us to bring back all grades 6-12 students who wish to attend school 5 days a week. Our proposed start date for the change is the middle of April. The Board must approve this plan before it’s set in action.

## New Information from Dane County’s Emergency Order #14

In Public Health Madison & Dane County’s newest **Emergency Order #14**, in effect today, Dane County updated its school preventive measures. Dane County has loosened its 6-feet distancing requirements to allow schools to bring back more students. With this order, schools have the flexibility to adjust 6-feet distancing in classroom operations, which would allow schools to move the desks to 5, 4 or 3-feet and have more students in the classroom.

## How School Works for In-Person Vikings (Proposed)

K-12 students attend school every day, 5 days a week. After making the change, there would be no more A and B days. Keep reading for our health and safety requirements.

Start and end times remain the same:

Grades K-5: 7:45 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.

River Bluff: 9 a.m. to 3:05 p.m.

High School: 9 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

## How School Works for Virtual Vikings in Grades 3-12

Virtual Vikings students learn concurrently with in-person students, which means they learn together and at the same time. Virtual students “zoom in” to class. New instruction happens 5 days per week.

Full-Time Virtual Vikings will not be online for 7 hours each day. They will have regular breaks throughout the day. This includes during every passing period, lunch, and recess. Additionally, not every class is a full period of instruction. For example, sometimes students will be engaged with the material/large group instruction in the beginning of the period and asked to engage further on their own during the second half of the period.

## Health & Safety Requirements for In-Person Students and Staff

All staff and students must still comply with these requirements:

- Students, staff and families diligently monitor their health for symptoms of COVID-19. If staff or students have symptoms of COVID-19, they submit our COVID-19 Tracker Form (staff) or our [Student COVID-19 Form](#) (student)
- Students and staff wash or sanitize their hands and use proper sneeze and cough etiquette
- Students and staff wear face coverings that comply with our [Mask Up SASD](#) standards.
- Students and staff work to ensure the greatest amount of distancing possible as well as keeping student and employee groups static.
- Staff execute our action plan when there is a COVID-19 case at school
- All staff are trained on the policies required by PHMDC
- And more.

## Please Complete our Survey by MONDAY

Starting today, we are asking all of our families with students in grades 3-12 to indicate whether they want their children to remain virtual or to attend school 5 days a week on the [Phase 3 Reopening Form](#). **Families with students in grades K-2 should only fill out the Selection Form if they wish to change their child's current placement.**

The placement you indicate will be for the remainder of the school year.

Please fill out the Phase 3 Reopening Form [HERE](#) by Monday, March 15 at 8 a.m. Please submit one form for each child.

## Helpful Links

- [Dane County Order #14, What's allowed in Emergency Order #14?](#)
  - [SASD COVID-19 Data Dashboard](#)
  - [SASD Health & Safety webpage](#)
  - [What staff and families/students must do before entering district buildings](#) (COVID-19 Quick Sheet)
  - [How to screen your child](#) (Self-Screen Quick Sheet)
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To opportunity and with gratitude,

Dr. Tim Onsager, District Administrator

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