



SUFFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Superintendent

Timothy M. Van Tassel
Superintendent

Laura Guerrette
Executive Secretary

May 6, 2021

Good afternoon Parents and Guardians,

As a follow-up to last evening's districtwide parent conference call, I am providing this correspondence to inform you of the topics discussed and our current plans for the future. In an effort to be concise, the following highlights the information shared in the order it was presented.

Quarantine Protocol and Vaccinated Students

Effective May 3, 2021, any student deemed a close contact in school or at home will be quarantined for seven (7) days provided there is a negative COVID-19 test after Day 5. As of Monday, May 10, 2021, any student who shows proof of being fully vaccinated will be exempt from quarantine so long as they are healthy and symptom free. They must be two weeks beyond the second vaccination to be considered "fully vaccinated."

Summer School and Summer Kindergarten Experience

Summer School notifications will be sent from each school within the next week. The dates of this year's Summer School program will be July 6 – July 29, 2021. It is important to note that these sessions will be held in-person. There will also be additional summer enrichment opportunities scheduled throughout July and August for our Suffield Public Schools students. This information will also be sent from the school office over the course of the next few weeks.

During the first two weeks of August, the Suffield Public Schools will be providing a week-long Kindergarten experience for any incoming Kindergarten students. This program, which is being provided to all prospective students, has been designed to support their transition and become familiar the classroom and school environment.

Distance Learning 2021-2022

The CSDE has released a statement that indicates Distance Learning may not be a statewide mandate for the 2021-2022 school year. The Board of Education and administration are awaiting further confirmation of this before finalizing any plans for the upcoming school year. We will notify families of this decision once it has been made.

Technology

iPads and Chromebooks in PreK-5 will be collected and stored within each of our elementary schools during the summer. Students in grades 6-12 will be keeping their school-issued devices

throughout the summer. It is important that our secondary students properly maintain and care for their school-issued devices throughout the summer months, as they will be utilized in the initial weeks of the 2021-2022 school year.

Special Services

Extended School Year services for eligible students with Individualized Education Plans (IEP) will be held in-person this summer. Please refer to your child's IEP or contact their Case Manager for specific dates and times of this year's Extended School Year program.

Transportation and Free Breakfast and Lunch

Parents are now being encouraged to utilize school district transportation. Bus safety protocols have been successfully developed and implemented, and will remain in effect for the duration of this pandemic. Please notify your school office regarding if you intend to change your current transportation status. This will ensure that the bus drivers are made aware of student bus stops, as well as, to maintain proper rider attendance and seating arrangements.

The district has also been notified that all students will have continued access to free breakfast and lunches for the 2021-2022 school year. We are encouraging families to utilize this wonderful opportunity, as the free meals are fully reimbursed by the government and do not impact the Suffield Public Schools budget.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Suffield Public Schools families for supporting the school district over the course of this very difficult school year. In addition, I would like to recognize and thank our dedicated School Nurses and our parents who serve as Nurses as we celebrate National Nurses Day today - May 6, 2021.

Sincerely,
Timothy M. Van Tassel, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools