

Scarborough Public Schools

Weekly Newsletter - May 7, 2021

Message from the Superintendent

Dear Scarborough School Community,

Scarborough Public Schools is fully committed to having our staff and students return to full-time, in-person learning for the Fall 2021! At last night's School Board meeting, I shared with the Board ([presentation is linked here](#) - beginning on slide 5) the work and planning that has been done so far to begin this roll-out for the fall, and explained why we are not able to have our students return any sooner. It will be a major undertaking for this to happen - mostly the repurposing of space so that we adhere to the CDC's guidelines, and the hiring of 17 additional staff - but we are fully determined to be prepared for the fall.

Assisting us with our preparations, are the members of the Fall Reopening Taskforce. Each phase level has created a team of staff and parents to help them with this project. We are currently creating a new page on our [website](#) where you will be able to follow their progress as they will be posting their meeting notes. Each taskforce has scheduled weekly meetings throughout the months of May and June. I would like to thank each of the team members for taking time out of their busy schedules and dedicating themselves to this very important work.

Like you and your families, we are all looking forward to some sense of normalcy. With the return to in-person learning - we believe this is a huge step in the right direction!

I hope you all have an enjoyable and relaxing weekend - and a very Happy Mother's Day to all of our wonderful and amazing mothers!

Best regards,
Sanford Prince

Mask Guidance Reminder

As a reminder, the Maine Department of Education made a change to their mask requirements effective on 4/28/2021 and was included in the [DOE's PK-12 and Adult Education Public Health](#)

[Guidance](#) document, which is Maine's CDC Guidance for schools.

- Adults, including educators and staff, are required to wear a mask/face covering **when indoors**.
- Students age five and above are required to wear a mask/face covering that covers their nose and mouth **when indoors**.
- Students and adults may be unmasked outdoors when 6 feet distance can be maintained.



This is very similar to the DOE Framework that was in place at the beginning of the school year. What does this mean for schools? Teachers are able to take groups of students outside for instruction or a mask break, and staff and students can be unmasked during those times, given the caveat that they are 6 feet apart. Face coverings will still be required at recess for staff and students, whereas students generally like to play in close vicinity to one another.

Weekly SPS COVID-19 Update

Positive COVID cases at Scarborough Public Schools
April 23, 2021 to May 7, 2021

Location	Total Case # in last 14 days	Total # Close Contacts identified
Blue Point School	1	0
Eight Corners School	1	0
Pleasant Hill School	0	0
Wentworth School	3	1
Scarborough Middle School	4	30
Scarborough High School	0	0
District (non-school)	0	0
TOTAL	9	31

Vaccination Updates - All Maine Residents Ages 12+

All Maine residents age 16 and older are eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine.

As with all changes in eligibility, it will take some time for some vaccine clinics to begin to schedule appointments and administer COVID-19 vaccines. The Pfizer vaccine is authorized for individuals ages 16 and 17, but consent from a parent or legal guardian is required to vaccinate children. [Get more information here](#) on vaccinations for 16 and 17 year old Maine residents.

All Maine residents age 12-15, the FDA authorization of the use of the Pfizer vaccine is expected soon. We will continue to keep you posted on any upcoming vaccination clinics as they become available.

FREE Transportation to COVID-19 Vaccination Sites

We have recently just learned that there is [free transportation](#) offered to all Mainer's who need a ride to and from a COVID-19 vaccination appointment for people who do not have access to reliable transportation, are unable to drive, or are otherwise unable to travel to their appointment. Before you call to schedule your ride, you **MUST** have a confirmed appointment before you schedule your ride, therefore rides are not available to the walk-in clinics. To schedule your ride, please call Modivcare at 1-855-608-5172 at least 48 hours before your scheduled appointment. Please read this [information sheet](#) with the full details of obtaining your ride.

Change in Close Contact Notification Protocols

As the number of positive COVID 19 cases and close contacts have spiked in our community, it has become increasingly difficult for our nurses to continue to make personal phone calls to every affected family. Our nurses spend numerous hours in the evenings and over the weekend tracking cases and reaching out to families, in addition to all of the pressure they are under during each school day. They work as a team, assisting one another as cases come in and share the load. Even so, that sometimes becomes too much.



Moving forward, we will be utilizing robocalls and email notifications anytime there are 10 or more affected individuals in a positive case. We are so appreciative of our nurses for all they continue to do and want to make their work more doable, especially when increased volume happens. At the same time, please know that any and all medical questions that you have are important to us, and our nurses would be happy to have a personal conversation with you when questions arise for you.

Spring Assessment Information

This year, we made several appeals to Maine's Department of Education seeking a waiver from the state testing requirement. **The third and final appeal was made directly to the Commissioner of Education in March and was denied.**



As the assessments themselves are new and the accountability and reporting will look different (they will not be used or reported publicly as they have been in the past, per DOE communication as they currently are seeking a federal waiver for accountability). ***Please know that in any case, we will not be using the state assessment data to make instructional or program decisions.*** In fact, the MEA Science assessment is an operational field test with no items available from which students can practice other than to learn how to navigate the online assessment.

We will continue to use the i-Ready Diagnostic data this spring to assess growth from fall to spring and identify areas for curriculum improvements for reading and math. As there is overlap with both the state test and i-Ready, we will analyze and compare data from both to determine assessment planning for next year. We are quite concerned about over testing our students both this spring and next year.

Spring in the Wentworth School Garden



School Board Approves A Garden Grant Donation

The School Board approved a grant donation from **Maine Agriculture in the Classroom (MAITC)** at last night's meeting. This will allow the school to continue to work on needed repairs and improvements in the garden. To learn more about the school garden, here is a presentation titled, [Wentworth Garden and It's Bounty](#). The garden and it's activities depend on fundraising and grants in order to operate. A special thanks to Catherine Hewitt, Garden Coordinator (and her colleagues) who work above and beyond to provide this amazing outdoor classroom along with the many wonderful learning opportunities for our students.



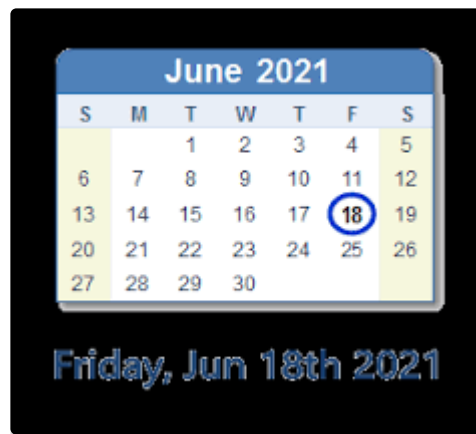


Upcoming SPS Events - Mark Your Calendar!

[SPS Revised School Calendar](#)



- **May 12** - Town Council Finance Committee FY22 Budget Review
- **May 18** - Town Council/School Board FY22 Budget Review
- **May 19** - Town Council Finance Committee FY22 Budget Review
- **May 20** - School Board Meeting & 2nd Reading of the FY22 Budget
- **May 26** - Town Council Meeting & 2nd Reading of the FY22 Budget



Last Day of 2020-2021 School Year - ALL Students

The last day of the 2020-2021 is currently slated for Friday, June 18, 2021 for ALL students. Assuming that we do not have any additional "no school days" for the remainder of this school year, mark June 18th on your calendar as the final day. This will be the final remote learning day for Cohort A and C students for the school year, and the final in-person learning day for Cohort B students for this school year. This will be a half day for students and a full day for staff.



2021-2022 Kindergarten Registration Packets are Available

Kindergarten registration packets are now to be ready to download! You will need to print the packet before dropping it off at your school; unfortunately we do not have online registration at this time. Download the 2021-2022 Kindergarten Registration packet by [clicking here](#).

If you need a packet mailed to you, please contact:

LyndaLee Landry at Blue Point:
llandry@scarboroughschools.org

Maureen Kirsch at Eight Corners:
mkirsch@scarboroughschools.org

Laurie Olore at Pleasant Hill:
lolore@scarboroughschools.org

Families will be able to drop off completed paperwork beginning Wednesday, May 5th at the school

Wednesday afternoon time slot (1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.). The sign up link will be in the same email notification with the registration paperwork but just in case you are planning ahead, the dates will be May 5th, May 12th, May 19th and May 26th.

[2021-2022 Pre-Registration Form](#)

Fully Remote Preparedness Plans

Linked [here](#), you will find an overview to Scarborough Public Schools Fully Remote Preparedness Plan, which was shared with the School Board at their December 3, 2020 meeting. Although our goal is to maintain in person learning to the greatest extent possible, there needs to be adequate staffing to facilitate in person learning.



Health & Safety

Please make sure you review [the UPDATED Student Health Self Assessment](#) questions EVERY DAY before sending your child off to school.


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

COVID-19

Pre-Screening Tool for School Attendance


Within the past 24 hours have you had a fever (100.4 and above*) or used any fever reducing medicine?

YES =




Do you feel sick with any of the most common symptoms of Covid, had vomiting/diarrhea, or felt unwell? (see symptom list to the right)

YES =




Have you been a close contact of a person with Covid in the past 14 days?

YES =



Have you traveled outside of the state in the past 14 days?


YES =



Contact Your School

Stay home with any YES response to the questions above OR with two or more of the "less common" symptoms listed to the right.

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.

updated 10.9.20 

Most Common Symptoms of Covid 19:

Cough
Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
Fever (100.4°F/ 38 °C or greater)*
Chills
Sore throat
New loss of taste or smell

Less Common Symptoms:

Muscle pain
Nausea or Vomiting
Diarrhea
Fatigue
Headache
Congestion/runny nose

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

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

 259 U.S. Route 1, Scarborough, ...  (207) 730-4100
 scarboroughschools.org