

Scarborough Public Schools

Weekly Newsletter - April 30, 2021

Message from the Superintendent

Dear Friends,

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and thank all Scarborough educators as we celebrate Teacher Appreciation week starting on Monday, May 3. As well all know, our skillful educators play an important role in educating and shaping our children. Their patience, hard work, and dedication helps mold every student to continue their educational journey with curiosity and excitement for learning. Please join me as we extend our heartfelt gratitude for our amazing educators. Their deep commitment and profound work of educating our students is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Sanford Prince

Updated Mask Guidance

Hot off the press, this is the latest information from the Maine Department of Education, received on Wednesday evening. This will be reflected in a 4/28/2021 update to 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 Cases at Scarborough Public Schools
April 16, 2021 to April 30, 2021

Location	Total Case # in last 14 days	Total # Close Contacts identified
Blue Point School	1	0
Eight Corners School	2	0
Pleasant Hill School	0	0
Wentworth School	1	0
Scarborough Middle School	3	0
Scarborough High School	4	0
District (non-school)	0	0
TOTAL	11	0

Vaccination Updates

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.

Upcoming COVID-19 Walk-In Vaccination Clinics

We have learned of two upcoming walk-in COVID-19 vaccination clinics.

Northern Lights has opened up an additional vaccination clinic scheduled for **Saturday, May 1st from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM** at the old Pier 1 building near the Maine Mall (368 Maine Mall Road). This clinic is open to anyone 16 years and older. A parent/guardian must accompany any student under 18 years of age, and the Pfizer vaccine will be offered to them. For anyone 18 and older, you will have a choice of Pfizer, Moderna or Johnson & Johnson. There is no out of pocket charge for the vaccine.

MaineHealth has also opened a walk-in clinic for anyone who is 18 years or older at their Scarborough Downs site from **7:00 AM to 6:00 PM on Monday, May 3rd and Tuesday, May 4th**. People who are 16 or 17 years old will need to make an appointment in advance. You can do so by visiting vaccine.mainehealth.org. For more information on this walk-in clinic, please click [here](#).

FREE Transportation to COVID-19 Vaccination Sites

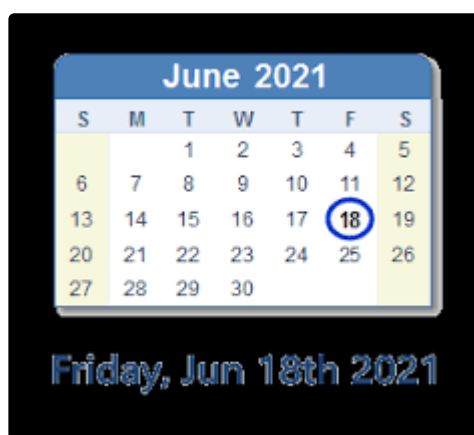
We have recently just learned that there is free transportation offered to all Mainer's who need a ride to and from a COVID-19 vaccination appointment for people who do not have access to reliable transportation, are unable to drive, or are otherwise unable to travel to their appointment. Before you 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.



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 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:
lolare@scarboroughschools.org

Families will be able to drop off completed paperwork beginning Wednesday, May 5th at the school their child will attend. Due to physical distancing requirements we will ask families to sign up for a 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](#)

Why So Much Testing this Spring?

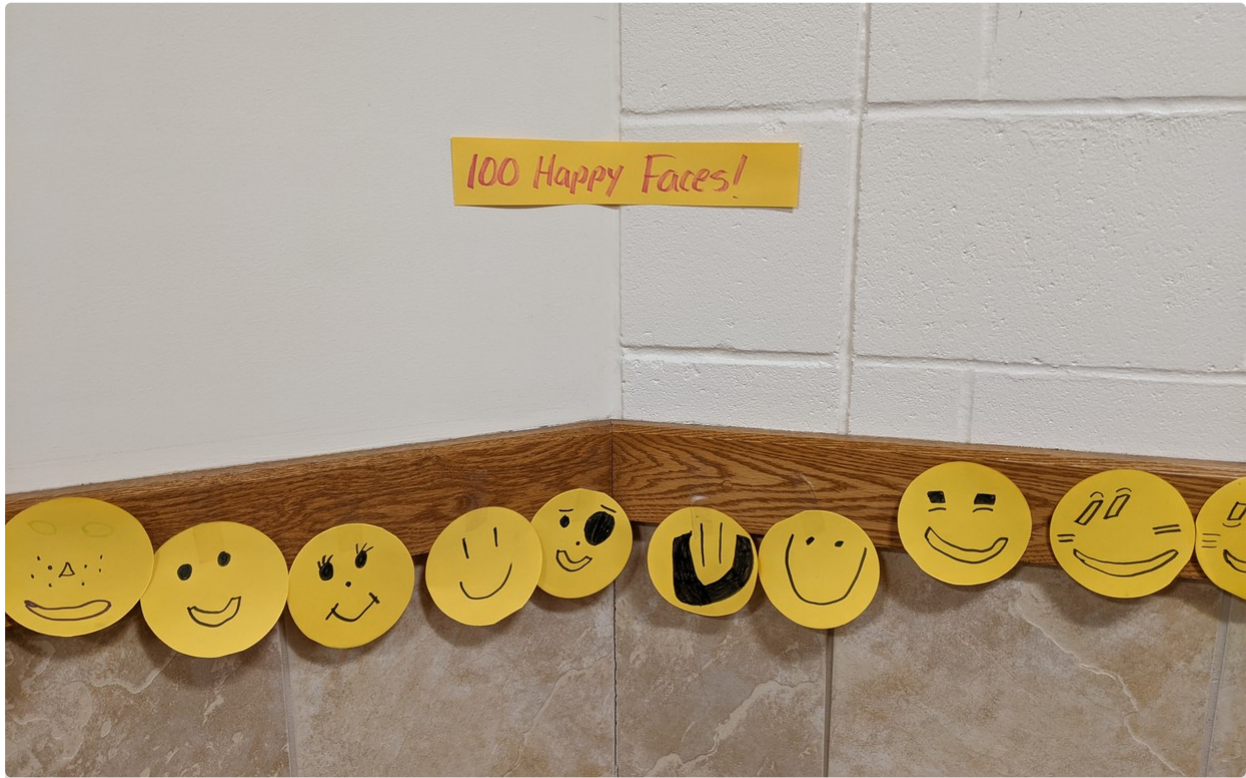
This year, we made several appeals to Maine's Department of Education seeking a waiver from the state testing requirement. **The third and final appeal was made directly to the Commissioner of Education in March and was denied.**



While we continue to seek to maximize our time this spring for our students to engage in learning activities, we will need to move forward with the state assessment requirements. As the assessments themselves are new and the accountability and reporting will look different (they will not be used or reported 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.*

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. 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. More information will coming soon through school communications.

Images from Wentworth School



Many



Happy

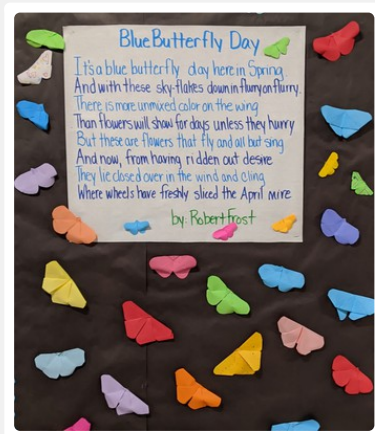


Faces

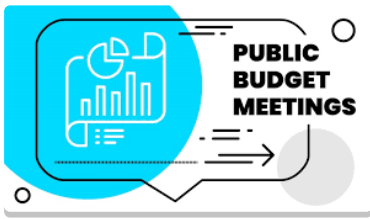
Line a happy hall...



Who We Are -



And all that we do!



Upcoming SPS Events - Mark Your Calendar!

[SPS Revised School Calendar](#)

- **May 5** - Town Council/School Board Joint Workshop & Public Hearing on FY22 Municipal Budget
- **May 6** - School Board Meeting

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? YES =
(see symptom list to the right)

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

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).

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

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