

Scarborough Public Schools

Weekly Newsletter - April 2, 2021

Message from the Superintendent

Dear Friends,

This week we had good news that anyone over sixteen years of age in Maine and older will be eligible for a COVID-19 vaccination starting April 7. This is timely, given that we have seen another surge with COVID-19 in Maine. As reported, Maine's seven-day daily case average increased to 232. On a daily basis we do our very best to stay abreast of current information that comes to us from the Department of Education. Continually evolving standards regarding distancing, travel, testing, and other COVID-19 related matters require us to monitor such possible changes. As changes evolve, we will keep you posted.

We are eagerly awaiting coming guidance from the Dept. of Education about the American Rescue Plan ESSER III funds, which are the latest Federal Stimulus funds to be provided for Maine schools. As we mentioned in the roll-out of our FY22 budget proposal, these funds will be included in our planning as we work toward full in person return for fall for all Scarborough students. While we have not yet been given all of the rules and regulations around the allowable uses of the ESSER III funds, we are hopeful to be able to consider creative options including use of off-campus facilities and increased staffing as needed to support our safe transition back to in-person learning.

Soon, we will be providing details about our plan to have a Reopening Planning Committees. New groups will be organized by phase level as we plan for fall.

Lastly, I remain optimistic knowing at some point we will see ordinary days again. As a result of these challenging times that we have experienced together, we will be stronger, wiser and continue to do what is best for our students.

Sincerely,
Sanford Prince

In Case You Missed It...

Authored and Co-Signed by:

- Scarborough Board of Education
- Scarborough District Wide Leadership Council
- Civil Rights Club

Click below to read the statement.

**SAY NO
TO RACISM**

Statement of Unity Against Racism

Travel Reminders- Stay Safe!

We have been receiving lots of inquiries about travel over the upcoming April break, and thought this would be a good time to remind everyone about current travel protocols. As you may be aware by now, on March 5, 2021, Governor Mills announced changes to the state travel requirements as follows:

- **Effective March 5:** Travel from Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island are exempted from Maine's test or quarantine requirement, joining Vermont and New Hampshire. **If you are traveling to a state not listed here or are traveling internationally, you must test upon return to Maine per the Governor's order. Please be in contact with your school and send a copy of COVID test results to your school nurses prior to returning to school on April 26.**
- People who have either had COVID-19 in the previous 90 days, or are fully vaccinated against COVID-19, regardless of state of origin, are now exempted from Maine's test or quarantine requirement.

Although vaccination rates are increasing across our state and beyond, risks of virus transmission are increased through travel and vacation activities, and as such please remain diligent about social distancing, hand sanitizing and masking.

We appreciate that we can count on all of you to stay safe for yourselves, your families, and our entire school community. Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Vaccination Updates

Governor Janet Mills announced yesterday that all Maine residents age 16 and older will be eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine beginning next Wednesday, April 7, 2021. The acceleration of Maine's vaccination timeline by a week and a half comes as Maine is expected to receive a significant increase in vaccine supply from the Federal government. Vaccination for residents age 16 and older had previously been scheduled to begin on April 19, 2021. The vaccine schedule is now as follows:

- Now: All Maine residents age 50 and older
- April 7: All Maine residents age 16 and older

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.

Weekly SPS COVID-19 Update

Positive COVID cases at Scarborough Public Schools
March 20, 2021 to April 2, 2021

Location	Total Case # in last 14 days	Total # Close Contacts identified
Blue Point School	0	0
Eight Corners School	0	0
Pleasant Hill School	0	0
Wentworth School	2	12
Scarborough Middle School	2	0
Scarborough High School	1	18
District (non-school)	0	0
TOTAL	5	30



School Board Announces Hire of Upcoming Scarborough Superintendent

It is with great excitement that the Scarborough Board of Education announces that Mr. Geoffrey Bruno has been hired as the Superintendent for Scarborough Public Schools to begin July 1, 2021. Mr. Bruno has served as the Superintendent in Falmouth for the past 7 years. Prior to his move to Maine in June of 2014, Geoff spent most of his career as an educator in the greater Boston area, serving as a K-12 Executive Director for Curriculum & Instruction and Middle School Principal in Saugus, Assistant Principal in Hopkinton and Georgetown, and Head of School at Community Day Charter Public School in Lawrence, MA. Prior to taking on district and school leadership roles, Geoff taught middle school science and outdoor education.



The Board has the utmost confidence that Mr. Bruno's experience and dedication to education will ensure that Scarborough Public Schools continues to be an outstanding place for our students to grow, learn, and thrive. The ability to attract a superintendent of such a high caliber reflects Scarborough's long-standing commitment to excellence.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at boe@scarboroughschools.org.

FY 22 School Budget

Scarborough School's budget for the FY22 year has been thoughtfully crafted with the intent of a return to full time, in person learning in the fall. Investments are focused on staffing to ensure academic, health, and social emotional needs can be met as students return from a year of hybrid and remote learning. A focus on staff will also put us in a better position should social distancing requirements not be reduced prior to the start of the 21-22 school year.

Nurses: The FY21 budget had specific funding to support Covid requirements by the Maine CDC to open in the fall, which included nurses at each building. This allowed us to have a nurse at each of our primary schools rather than one nurse who covered all three buildings. As this restriction has not been amended, we will be maintaining these positions in the FY22 budget.

Smaller Class Sizes: Due to social distancing requirements, we had fewer students in our classrooms. This allowed more direct interaction between the student and their teacher which has been very beneficial in their learning. As we bring our students back into the classrooms, we recognize there will be additional support needed to help them regain content areas in various subjects. We are adding five new staff members to ensure we maintain those optimum class sizes for maximum learning.

Bus Drivers: We will be retaining the three bus drivers added in the FY21 budget to support our students with the expectation of transportation services returning to normal in the fall.

Social and Emotional Learning: This year has been like no other, and we recognize all of our students may need additional support as they reenter the classroom in the fall. We are adding this support by increasing a part time social worker position at the high school to full time.

Special Education Changes: The Maine Department of Education has made an immediate change to state statute, extending the eligibility of our special education programming to students under IDEA, until their 22nd birthday. We will be adding two educational technician positions to support the change to the law and retaining one from the FY21 budget.

CALLING ALL SUBSTITUTES!

Want to work with our amazing staff and students? Want to earn some extra money? We are hiring substitutes for our classrooms - both teachers and Ed techs - and our clerical positions. With only a minimum of 2 years of college credits and a background check (CHRC) from the State of Maine - you can be eligible to work in one of our schools! Please complete and an online application today at: www.applitrack.com/scarborough/onlineapp. For more information. check out [this flyer](#) with additional details.



2021-2022 Kindergarten Pre-Registration

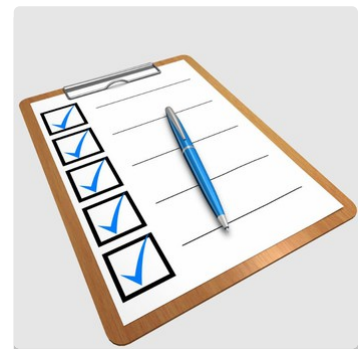
We are eager to welcome our newest Kindergarten students to Scarborough Public Schools! We are currently planning for Fall 2021 and will be able to release more information about what school will look like later this spring. If you have a child who turns 5 on or before Oct. 15, 2021 and you are considering sending them to school in the fall, [please complete this form](#). Formal registration packets will be available on our website at a later date.

The information you provide is important for us to accurately plan for the number of classrooms, teachers and materials we will need in the fall. Please complete the form so we can contact you through email with updates and news about the 2021-2022 school year as the situation evolves and decisions are made. We will hold registration appointments at each school later in the Spring.

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

Spring Assessment News

While we seek to maximize our time this spring for our students to engage in learning activities, we do have data to gather which will help teachers and school leaders plan for further, more targeted learning as well as assess growth. We wish to provide awareness, letting you know, as planning for each is underway. Details will be shared as the planning develops.



- **i-Ready Diagnostic** for grades K-9: the window for this math and reading assessment is schedule for May 10 to 28. Planning is underway to identify whether or not to assess onsite at school or remotely as was done this past fall.
- **Panorama Social and Emotional Learning Student Surveys** for grades K-11: tentatively scheduled for April. This data will provide information on where we will target our efforts this spring and next fall. Survey information will be shared with parents.
- The Maine DOE has announced that the state testing, the **MEA (Maine Educational Assessment)** will be taking place this spring. Reading and Math for grades 3-8 and 11 and Science for grades 4, 8 and 11. For Reading and Math, the test is much shorter in duration with only two testing sessions required, both of which can be done remotely as they are online tests. The Science test though, will need to be done on site. There is more flexibility this year with special considerations for students available given the COVID-19 pandemic. The reporting will look different as well. We will keep you posted as additional information becomes available.

Many have wondered how are our students are doing academically compared to last year. We took a look at our i-Ready data from Fall 2019 (pre-COVID) and compared that to our students' Fall 2020 (this past fall) data. We compared where our students were with the beginning of year benchmark expectations for each grade level and compared them to the same benchmark the next year. Here is a link to the data:

- [Fall 2019 to Fall 2020 Cohort Reading and Math i-Ready Data](#)

The percentage of students who are at or above grade level for the beginning of the school year benchmark expectations.

Reading Grade	Fall 2019	Fall 2020
1	97	100
2	92	88
3	87	89
4	91	93
5	83	85
6	81	83
7	79	70
8	84	80
9	75	83



The percentage of students who are at or above grade level for the beginning of the school year benchmark expectations.

Math Grade	Fall 2019	Fall 2020
1	95	97
2	91	90
3	93	91
4	90	93
5	88	85
6	84	79
7	85	70
8	90	80
9	75	84

Reading

Fall 2019 to Fall 2020

Mathematics

Images from Eight Corners School

Students Advocating for What They Care About





Engaging Mural, Encouraging Words



Black History Month Virtual Tour of EC



Upcoming SPS Events - Mark Your Calendar!

[SPS Revised School Calendar](#)

- **April 7** - Town Manager & Superintendent's FY22 Budget Presentation
- **April 14** - Town Council 1st Reading of FY22 Budget
- **April 15** - Public Hearing on FY22 School Budget
- **April 16** - No School
- **April 19** - Patriot's Day - Central Office Closed
- **April 19 - 23** - Spring Break

Fully Remote Preparedness Plans

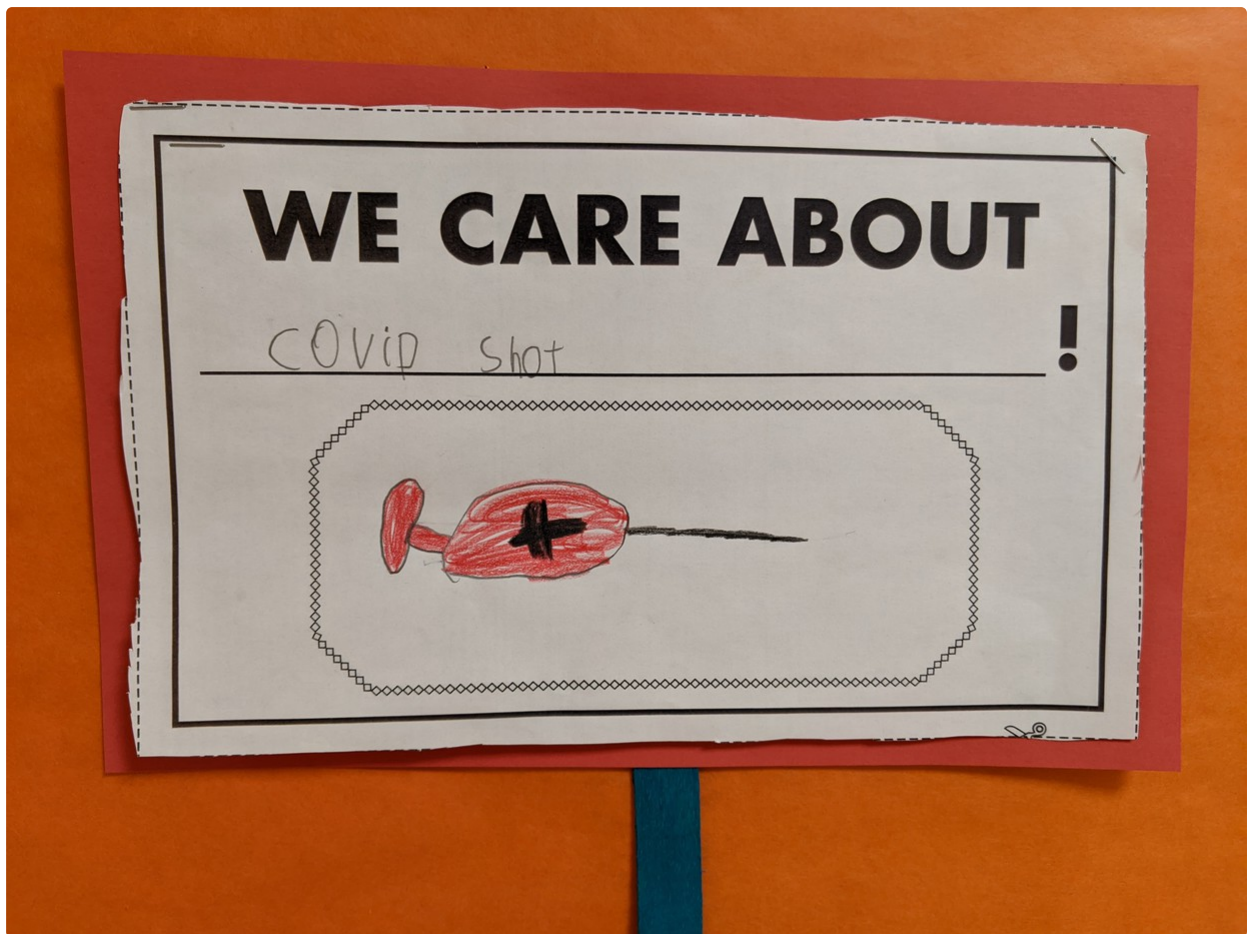
Linked [here](#), you will find an overview to Scarborough Public Schools Fully Remote Preparedness Plan, which was shared with the School Board at their December 3, 2020 meeting. Although our goal is to maintain in person learning to the greatest extent possible, there needs to be adequate staffing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