

Scarborough Public Schools

Weekly Newsletter - April 16, 2021

Message from the Superintendent

Dear Friends,

During this week the school board was presented with our Reopening of School Fall Plan. Given the current CDC guidelines whereby they lowered the 6ft regulation to 3ft, we are confident that the 3ft ruling allows us to have all students return to school in September. Recently, our architects, Harriman Associates, provided a classroom space study. The outcome of their work provided existing room capacities analysis given the new 3ft ruling between each student's desk within a classroom. By maximizing current space utilization and the plan of hiring additional teachers we again are excited to have a normal start to the school year in the fall.

With this reopening plan we have addressed the expected need for additional adult support as our students return to in-person learning, as well as the current uncertainty around enrollment. Your continued support with following the budget process and attending the School Budget Validation Vote on June 15th will be important.

As we move ahead it will be essential to have our community and school partners to work as we institute Site Based Teams in our schools to further the planning of bringing out students back in the fall. A survey has gone out and interested names need to respond by April 30th.

With the current research showing more cases are now appearing with the younger age groups nationally, we must continue to be diligent with following the current CDC guidelines. Especially be prudent for families who are choosing to travel outside of New England. Again, As a reminder we have instituted a mandatory quarantine time for such individuals. ([Important Travel Notification](#)).

By working together, we will do what is right for every student. We are forever grateful for our school personnel, students and the Scarborough community as we navigate together during this pandemic time.

Wishing you all a wonderful spring break.

Sincerely,
Sanford Prince

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. Last Friday, for example, we became aware of 2 cases after 4 pm with over 50 close contacts. As middle school and high school families experienced, the decision was made to utilize a robocall and email notification out of necessity. Although a few tweaks need to be made based on our review and feedback that was received, overall this proved to be an effective way to make contact.



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.



Reminder About Travel Quarantine Requirements

As we approach Spring break for families choosing to travel outside of New England, we are instituting a mandatory quarantine time for these individuals. Students will need to stay home for three days upon return from travel to non-exempt states (any state outside of New England). We request that students who have travelled to a non-exempt state return to school on or after Thursday, April 29th, or 3 full days after your return to Maine. We will still require evidence of a negative COVID test as well. Students should participate in remote learning. **If your student tests positive, or develops symptoms of COVID-19, please contact our school nurses.**

Increasing this local safety requirement is necessary given the recent surge we are experiencing among students in our district. Currently, if one travels to an unapproved state, a rapid test can be acquired at the airport upon returning to home and submitted to the school personnel for immediate return to in-person learning. However, the symptoms of COVID-19 may not appear until a few days later. In this scenario, the infected individual would have already exposed multiple people at school and would have put multiple individuals into quarantine.

This preventive measure is another way to reduce potential exposure of students and our employees. As always, your continued support during this period is most appreciated.

Maine's international travel requirement requires that people who are not fully vaccinated who return to Maine after international travel [get tested](#) with a [viral test](#) 3-5 days after travel AND stay home and **self-quarantine for a full 7 days after travel.**

- Even if you test negative, stay home and **self-quarantine for the full 7 days.**
- If your test is positive, [isolate](#) yourself to protect others from getting infected.
- If you don't get tested, stay home and self-quarantine for 10 days after travel.
- **Please be in contact with your school and send a copy of COVID test results to your school nurses prior to any in person return to school**

For people who are fully vaccinated (2 weeks from their last dose) who return to Maine or anyone who has had COVID 19 in the last 90 days:

- Quarantine is not required unless you are experiencing symptoms.

Weekly SPS COVID-19 Update

Positive COVID cases at Scarborough Public Schools
April 3, 2021 to April 15, 2021


Location	Total Case # in last 14 days	Total # Close Contacts identified
Blue Point School	1	0
Eight Corners School	3	13
Pleasant Hill School	0	0
Wentworth School	6	13
Scarborough Middle School	2	15
Scarborough High School	10	186
District (non-school)	0	0
TOTAL	22	227

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.

August/September	October	November	December	January
30 31 1 2 3 6 7 8 9 10 13 14 15 16 17 20 21 22 23 24 27 28 29 30	4 5 6 7 8 11 12 13 14 15 18 19 20 21 22 25 26 27 28 29	1 2 3 4 5 8 9 10 11 12 15 16 17 18 19 22 23 24 25 26 29 30	1 2 3 6 7 8 9 10 13 14 15 16 17 20 21 22 23 24 27 28 29 30 31	3 4 5 6 7 10 11 12 13 14 17 18 19 20 21 24 25 26 27 28 31
8/30 & 8/31 - Staff Days 9/1 - Student Day - Grades 6 & 9 only K-5 Appointment only 9/2 - Student Day - Grades 6-12 K-5 Appointment only 9/3 - No School 9/6 - Labor Day 9/7 - Student Day - Grades 6-12 K-5 AM only 9/8 - Student Day - Grades 6-12 K-5 AM only 9/9 & 9/10 - Student Day - Grades K-12	10/11 - Indigenous People Day	11/2 - Election Day Student Day K-8 Grades 9-12 Remote Day 11/5 - End of Quarter 1 (6-12) (45 student days) 11/11 - Veterans' Day Observed 11/24 - Staff Flex Day 11/24 - 26 - Thanksgiving Break	12/3 - End of Trimester 1 (K-5) (61 student days) 12/23 - 12/31 - Vacation	1/17 - Martin Luther King Day 1/18-1/21 - HS Mid-Term Exams 1/21 - End of Quarter 2 (6-12) (43 student days)
February	March	April	May	June
1 2 3 4 7 8 9 10 11 14 15 16 17 18 21 22 23 24 25 28	1 2 3 4 7 8 9 10 11 14 15 16 17 18 21 22 23 24 25 28 29 30 31	1 4 5 6 7 8 11 12 13 14 15 18 19 20 21 22 25 26 27 28 29	2 3 4 5 6 9 10 11 12 13 16 17 18 19 20 23 24 25 26 27 30 31	1 2 3 6 7 8 9 10 13 14* 15 16 17 20 21 22 23 24 27 28 29 30
2/21 - Presidents' Day 2/21 - 2/25 - Vacation	3/11 - End of Trimester 2 (K-5) (57 student days) 3/18 - Staff Day	4/1 - End of Quarter 3 (6-12) (44 student days) 4/15 - Staff Flex Day 4/18 - Patriots' Day 4/18 - 4/22 - Vacation	5/30 - Memorial Day	6/12 - Graduation - TBD 6/14* - Last Student/Teacher day with no storm days used. If storm days are used, days will be added to the calendar. This will be a 1/2 day for students and a full day for staff.

 NO SCHOOL - Holiday/Vacation	<table border="1" style="font-size: 8px;"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">School Hours by Grade</th></tr> <tr><th colspan="2">(No changes)</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>K-2</td><td>8:50 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.</td></tr> <tr><td>3-5</td><td>8:50 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.</td></tr> <tr><td>6-8</td><td>8:00 a.m. - 2:25 p.m.</td></tr> <tr><td>9-12</td><td>8:00 a.m. - 2:25 p.m.</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	School Hours by Grade		(No changes)		K-2	8:50 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.	3-5	8:50 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.	6-8	8:00 a.m. - 2:25 p.m.	9-12	8:00 a.m. - 2:25 p.m.	<table border="1" style="font-size: 8px;"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="2">Early Release Times by Grade</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>K-2</td><td>1:45 p.m.</td></tr> <tr><td>3-5</td><td>1:45 p.m.</td></tr> <tr><td>6-8</td><td>12:55 p.m.</td></tr> <tr><td>9-12</td><td>12:55 p.m.</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Early Release Times by Grade		K-2	1:45 p.m.	3-5	1:45 p.m.	6-8	12:55 p.m.	9-12	12:55 p.m.	
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Approved by the BOE on April 15, 2021.

2021-2022 School Calendar

At the April 15, 2021 School Board meeting, the 2021-2022 school calendar was approved by the Board of Education. The significant change from previous calendars is the return to a 90 minute early release on one Wednesday per month for staff to engage in professional development. The balance of the calendar is very similar to years past, including holidays and vacation days for staff and students. For our K-5 students, there is a slightly different format for them for their first days of school (September 1 - 8), as noted on the calendar.



2021 COVID Relief Fund (CRF) Update

There have been many questions raised regarding changes and adaptations other districts have been able to make throughout the pandemic. We wanted to share how Scarborough's share of federal covid

related funds stacked up against other districts and how impactful their share of the money was to their current and future plans for reopening their doors to students.

	Scarborough	Biddeford	Falmouth	Gorham	S Portland
ESSER 1	\$106k	\$565k	\$23k	\$187k	\$516k
ESSER 2	\$439k	\$2.33M	\$93k	\$777k	\$2.1M
ESSER 3	\$985k	\$5.23M	\$210K	\$1.74M	\$4.74M
CRF 1	\$2.12M	\$2.38M	\$1.43M	\$2.01M	\$2.43M
CRF 2	\$2.22M	\$2.5M	\$1.50M	\$2.1M	\$2.55M
Total	\$5.87M	\$13M	\$3.26M	\$6.81M	\$12.34M

The following outlines how Scarborough has used the money thus far in preparing for our students' return to the classrooms.

Prior to the FY21 budget going to referendum and approval on July 14, 2020, Scarborough Schools had received \$106k in Federal covid relief funds via the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER1) . Those funds were used to hire two full time subs to meet staffing demands resulting from COVID. Since that time, Scarborough has received a total of \$4.3M dollars in Federal funds through two Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF1 and CRF2). CRF allocations were based on student enrollment, while ESSER funds were based on the district's Title I status (Title I is an entitlement program that is calculated based upon the number of students receiving free and reduced lunches), resulting in a significantly smaller allocation for Scarborough. Obtaining this funding has been instrumental in successfully and safely reopening schools to students and staff.

The money that has been received thus far has allowed the district to strategically invest in areas that meet the demands of educating during a pandemic, while not increasing our local taxes or reducing programming. As would be expected in a time of hybrid learning, technology has been the largest area of investment using CRF funds. Investments in technology include: remote services software and subscriptions, live streaming equipment, laptops, chromebook cases for safe transport of devices, and audio equipment to address sound quality challenges in an environment of masking and online learning. These funds also provided Town Hall with the necessary wiring and equipment to live stream all meetings by the various councils and boards to ensure business was conducted safely. Staffing and personnel costs was another major category, including increased staffing to address new safety protocols and expected absences across all departments, in class staff support for remote teachers, professional development training opportunities, and new hire training.

Opening the doors at aging facilities has included substantial investments, such as: a thorough HVAC system review and modifications as needed, new safety dividers, expanded health care facilities, air purifiers, fans, various pieces of cleaning equipment, and increased outdoor learning spaces. Of particular note is the construction of a new storage shed, which had been an ongoing need for the facilities department. The new demand to accommodate the necessary PPE, furniture and soft goods removed from classrooms to meet social distancing requirements, and extra educational and cleaning supplies exacerbated this already known need. In partnership with the town council, a site was selected at the bus depot and the shed was erected in December 2020. For those interested, [here](#) is a detailed look at all CRF expenditures.

Initial direction from the state was that all CRF funds had to be spent and accounted for by December 30, 2020, and more specifically, on items not already accounted for in the budget. In response to districts across the country struggling to meet this requirement, in late December the federal government extended the CRF expenditure deadline to June 30, 2021. This provided the opportunity to pull back some planned facility spending and redirect those dollars to continue to fund the additional covid staffing needs through the end of the 2021 school year. In addition to the funds already discussed, a second Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund allotment (ESSER2) was released in February. Scarborough is set to receive an additional \$438,893. ESSER2 funds are available for obligation through September 30, 2022 and (unlike most federal grants) may be used to supplant normally budgeted costs. As such, district leadership is currently strategizing how to best use these funds to assist with the opening of schools for the 21-22 school year. The most recent funds just released by the government in the past week, ESSER3 funding, is available for obligation through September 30, 2023, with 20% of the funds earmarked specifically for learning recovery efforts.

In the coming months, school administrators and the school board finance committee will be discussing the impact of these funds and investments on the FY22 budget. As always, please reach out to the board with any questions that you may have at boe@scarboroughschools.org and stay engaged as FY22 budget discussions continue.

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.



UPDATE on 2021-2022 Kindergarten Registration

We are expecting our Kindergarten registration packets to be ready to download after spring break. Families will get an email notification that the packet is ready to be downloaded and completed. You will need to print the packet before dropping it off at your school; unfortunately we do not have online registration at this time. If you need a packet mailed to you, please contact:

LyndaLee Landry at Blue Point:
llyndry@scarboroughschools.org

Maureen Kirsch at Eight Corners:

Laurie Olore at Pleasant Hill:

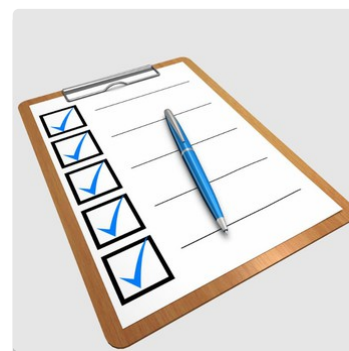
lolore@scarboroughschools.org

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](#)

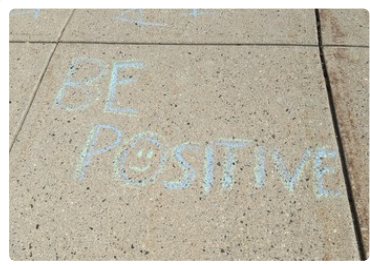
Spring Assessment News Updated

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.
- **[Panorama Social and Emotional Learning Student Surveys](#)** for grades K-11: scheduled for April into early May. This data will provide information on where we will target our social and emotional learning efforts this spring and next fall.
- **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 5, 8 and 11. For Reading and Math, the test is the [NWEA MAP Growth](#) test which 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 ([New Meridian](#)) even though it is online, 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 continue to keep you posted as additional information becomes available.

Images from Scarborough Middle School



Middle School Students Share Book Recommendations



Upcoming SPS Events - Mark Your Calendar!

[SPS Revised School Calendar](#)

- **April 19** - Patriot's Day - Central Office Closed
- **April 19 - 23** - Spring Break
- **April 28** - Town Finance Committee reviews SPS FY22 Proposed Budget (4:00 p.m.)

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, redmond@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

