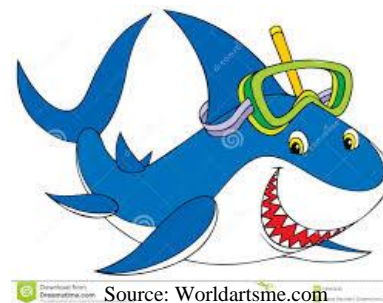


# Roger Sherman Elementary School

250 Fern Street

Fairfield, CT 06824

Phone (203) 255-8330



CT School of Distinction (2019-2021)

#5 Ranked Elementary School in CT (US News & World Report, 2021)

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Dr. Ian M. Banner, Principal

*Be nice to others and treat them with kindness no matter what.  
While few things are, this is always within our control*

- A

**For:** January 2022

Dear Parents and Families:

Happy New Year and welcome to 2022. I'm hoping that you all enjoyed a wonderful winter break and that together we can find renewed energy to eventually move beyond these continued Covid-related challenges.

As the cases and positivity rates rise, the staff and I are fully aware that many of you are concerned about having your child(ren) return to school tomorrow, and we certainly appreciate and empathize with these apprehensions because we are facing the same fears with our own children. However, please know that we continue to dedicate the seriousness that this pandemic requires, and we will be doubling down on mitigation practices (mainly masking and distancing) to support in keeping Sherman students and staff as safe as possible.

Below are some of the most recent updates to our mitigation practices, which, in some cases, reflect a return to some of the practices we were required to adopt last year. The hope is that these practices can eventually be relaxed once the state, district and health department feel it is appropriate to do so.

## Updated Practices

### 1. *Snack and Lunch*

- a. Not all some students will eat their snack at the same time. The classroom teacher will establish her/his order of which students will eat first and which will follow afterwards based on the physical arrangement of their classroom.
- b. The students eating snack will be 6 feet from other students eating snack at the same time.
- c. The distance between students at lunch will remain at 3 feet as there is no way to increase the distance nor to have students in the same grade eat at different times.
- d. Students' masks must only be down when taking a bite and then be back up and on whilst chewing. This will be the same at both snack and lunch.
- e. The desktop barriers can be utilized for those students who wish to have them for snack and lunch. Please reach out to your child's classroom teacher if you wish for this option to be provided.

### 2. *Recess and Extra Recess Breaks*

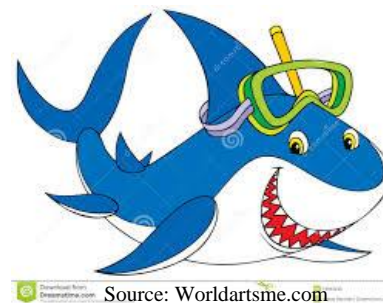
- a. Elementary classrooms will be kept apart throughout the day, which means that recess now has to return to zones as per last year. Mr. Ceste and I will again mark out the blacktop each morning so please do not disturb the cones if you arrive after we have orchestrated the zones. See *Figure 1*, below.
- b. Each grade level will be limited to one of four zones on the blacktop (marked by cones) and students will remain in their zone. The playscape will be part of zone 1.
- c. The playscape will be open and available so each grade-level team will develop a schedule amongst themselves for rotating through these zones each day.

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- d. Students and staff do not need to wear masks during recess (unless they are required to wear one for the 5 days after their return to school following being absent due to a positive test). Students may not touch each other and are required to maintain some distance while playing.
3. *Music*
- a. Although elementary classrooms will be kept apart throughout the day, string and band students (in grades 4 and 5 only) from different classrooms typically practice together in small-group lessons. As such, we can continue with the current practice because we can ensure 6 feet of distance between students.
  - b. Full orchestra and band rehearsals are suspended until at least the end of January.
  - c. Until further notice, students in grade 5 will no longer gather altogether for chorus. Instead, they will return to separate classes.
4. *Student Absences and Work*
- a. We continue to encourage students to remain at home if they are sick and especially if experiencing symptoms associated with Covid. Additionally, we are very sensitive to your legitimate and reasonable concerns for your child safety given the current increase in positivity rates and cases.
  - b. Students who are required or expected to quarantine or isolate (refer to Mike Cummings' email on 1/1/22 and see state's direction here: [https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1641044534/fairfieldschoolsorg/hwyojirmlulnkap0a61n/SchoolContactTracing\\_Quarantine\\_Update\\_12312021.pdf](https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1641044534/fairfieldschoolsorg/hwyojirmlulnkap0a61n/SchoolContactTracing_Quarantine_Update_12312021.pdf)) will be supported by a remote teacher for a short period of each day to assist with academic work and to maintain some pace with the curriculum whilst out.
  - c. However, this remote support is *not* provided to students for absences that do not require them to isolate or quarantine per the state's guidance (see the table on page 2 of the above link). Nor is it expected that the classroom teacher provide work to students to support maintaining pace with the curriculum for such absences.
  - d. Per expected practice, you must continue to call the main office to inform us of your child's absence and the reason.

## Reminder: SKG Expectations

As a reminder, please note the following regarding SKG

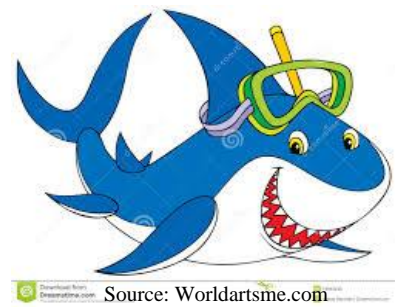
1. Please have your child ready to get out of the car with their mask on when you enter SKG. They should only exit on the passenger side of the car.
2. Please DO NOT get out of your car in the SKG line as all drivers are expected to remain in their vehicle at SKG drop-off to ensure the line continues to move.
3. No student should be picked up on campus by car. The SKG line is the only permitted place for this.
4. Parking is not permitted on either side of Fern Street during SKG times.
5. Please inform family members or family support members that parking on Fern Street during SKG periods is not permitted.
6. Please do not drop-off at SKG after 8:55am when no staff member is present. Please instead drive them to the main office.

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As always, please continue to reach out with questions and provide feedback, and remember to *Be Strong, Be Smart, Be Kind*.

#Shermanstrong!

Yours truly,

Dr. Ian M. Banner

[ibanner@fairfieldschools.org](mailto:ibanner@fairfieldschools.org)

Follow us on Twitter: @rogershermanllc

