

P.O. Box 997 Sayreville, New Jersey 08871 Phone: 732-525-5200 Fax: 732-727-5769



Dr. Richard R. Labbe, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Marilyn J. Shediack, Assistant Superintendent

Mr. Eric Glock-Molloy, Assistant Superintendent Ms. Erin Hill, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

### Talk Sup Week 28 Review and Preview

March 22, 2021

Good morning Sayreville and happy spring! I hope you had a relaxing weekend. Welcome to another edition of *Talk Sup Review and Preview*.

Over the weekend we received notification that one individual from Project Before at the Cheesequake School and one from the middle school have tested positive for COVID-19. After conducting contact tracing in accordance with Center for Disease Control (CDC) and New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) guidelines, multiple individuals from both schools were determined to have been in "close contact" with the infected people, and thus have been officially notified and directed to quarantine. For the most up to date information on the number of individuals who have tested positive or who have been determined to be in close contact with a person who has tested positive, please see the Student and Staff COVID-19 Dashboards, which are located on the School Safety and Security of our website and can be accessed by clicking <a href="here">here</a>.

This week, <u>all</u> in-person learners in <u>preschool through 12<sup>th</sup> grade</u>, will attend school for in-person instruction following the early dismissal schedule in accordance with Phase 3 of our Restart of School Plan. Although parents will continue to have the option of having their child(ren) participate in full-time remote learning rather than in-person instruction, at any time they may request from their child's <u>principal</u> that their child(ren) transition from full-time remote learning back to in-person instruction. However, in such cases, it may take five calendar days for the change to be processed, as we may need time to make classroom and instructional preparations. Below please find the calendar for March/April.

MARCH					
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	
March 22	23	March 24 Remote instruction for all students	25	26	
PreK-12 PHASE 3	PreK-12 PHASE 3		PreK-12 PHASE 3	PreK-12 PHASE 3	
March 29 PreK-12 PHASE 3	30 PreK-12 PHASE 3	March 31 Remote instruction for all students	April 1 PreK-12 PHASE 3	2 Schools Closed for Spring Break	
12	13	April 14 Remote instruction for all students	April 15	16	
PreK-12 PHASE 3	PreK-12 PHASE 3		PreK-12 PHASE 3	PreK-12 PHASE 3	
19	20	April 21 Remote instruction for all students	April 22	23	
PreK-12 PHASE 3	PreK-12 PHASE 3		PreK-12 PHASE 3	PreK-12 PHASE 3	

**Educating Today's Learners to Be Tomorrow's Leaders** 



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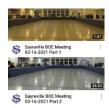
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To review information about our Restart of School Plan, including our updated FAQs, click here.

If you have not already received or registered for a COVID-19 vaccine, I encourage you to preregister by clicking on the following link <a href="https://covidvaccine.nj.gov/">https://covidvaccine.nj.gov/</a>. Any staff members interested in being vaccinated at Robert Wood Johnson (RWJ) Hospital through our partnership with RWJ Barnabas should send me their requested information by this <a href="Tuesday evening">Tuesday evening</a>. Please remember that all our staff, students, and their residing family members are strongly encouraged to participate in our free and easy-access COVID-19 <a href="asymptomatic">asymptomatic</a> testing on the dates and times noted below. Since we do <a href="not test people who are demonstrating symptoms">not test people who are demonstrating symptoms</a>, if you are symptomatic, you should ask your healthcare provider for an appropriate testing location. If you are a staff member interested in learning more information about how you and your residing family members can participate in this vital virus spreading prevention activity, click <a href="here">here</a>. Likewise, if you are the parent of a student who is interested in the same for you, your child(ren), and all your residing family members, click <a href="here">here</a>.

- Wednesday, March 17, 2021 (12:30 5:30 pm for staff & family/students & family)
- Wednesday, March 24, 2021 (12:30 5:30 pm for staff & family/students & family)
- Wednesday, March 31, 2021 (12:30 5:30 pm for staff & family/students & family)
- Wednesday, April 14, 2021 (12:30 5:30 pm for staff & family/students & family)
- Wednesday, April 21, 2021 (12:30 5:30 pm for staff & family/students & family)

If you are a parent who is struggling to find a balance working from home and parenting, you may want to consider joining a free self-care support group every Tuesday evening at 6:00 pm as part of a special program offered by The Counseling Center called Pandemic Parenting. During sessions, you can share your thoughts, experiences, and fears with others who are feeling the same way in a safe and supportive environment. Click <a href="here">here</a> for more information. In addition, Robert Wood Johnson (RWJ) Barnabas is offering free virtual events to assist parents and students in coping with the social and emotional challenges presented by the pandemic. Click <a href="here">here</a> for more information. Finally, Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care (RUBHC) is providing a Covid Connect Helpline (833) 223-0011. It will provide and expand behavioral health treatment and support to individuals who are experiencing mental health and substance abuse issues related to the spread of the COVID-19 virus. A series of screening tools will be used to assess the caller's level of distress and mental health/addiction needs. University Behavioral Health Care will provide a warm handoff to licensed treatment providers throughout the state that offer telehealth services. To ensure successful service linkage, their staff will follow up with all callers. For more information, click <a href="here">here</a> to watch a 1-minute video. If you have questions, please contact: Susan Brown, Director: <a href="merential-browns@ubhc.rutgers.edu">browns@ubhc.rutgers.edu</a>; or Irena Guberman, Program Manager: <a href="merential-gubermir@ubhc.rutgers.edu">gubermir@ubhc.rutgers.edu</a>.



If you did not have a chance to attend the Board of Education (BOE) Business Meeting held on Tuesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, here is what you missed. Stephen Farley, from Sayreville War Memorial High School (SWMHS) and Haley Asseng from the Sayreville Middle School (SMS) began the meeting by providing their respective Student Council Representative to the Board of Education Reports. After that, Mr. Esposito expressed his opening remarks and Mr. Walsh shared district highlights.

The Board then moved the action items from the Superintendent's Report onto the Board Agenda and approved all



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of them. To see the Agenda click <a href="here">here</a>. To see the Agenda Addendum click <a href=here</a>. To view the video of this meeting, click <a href=here</a>. Among other motions, on the Vision 2030 Finance and Infrastructure portion of the agenda, the Board reapproved the proposed <a href="Tentative 2021-2022 School District Budget">Tentative 2021-2022 School District Budget</a>. To see all the information presented and/or provided thus far on 2021-22 Budget, click <a href=here</a>. The BOE also approved the submission of the 2021-22 Preschool Education Aid (PEA) enrollment and budget workbook, in the amount of \$9,438,330. In addition, the Board of Education approved an agreement for professional services between the Board and the Spiezle Architectural Group, in which the Board will pay them \$59,900 for the professional services associated with the Window Replacement Project at the Truman Elementary School, and approved the withdrawal of those funds from Capital Reserve. Similarly, the Board approved another agreement for professional services with the Spiezle Architectural Group, in which the Board will pay them \$122,500 for the professional services associated with the Boiler Replacement Project at the Selover School, and approved the withdrawal of those funds from Capital Reserve. Finally, the BOE approved a very generous donation of \$1,000 from the Attix family to be used towards the D-Wing Staff Lounge at SMS.

On the Student Achievement portion of the agenda, among other motions, the Board approved the SWMHS 2021 Senior Class trip to Black Bear Lake in Millstone Township, New Jersey on Tuesday, June 1, 2021. Likewise, on the Governance portion of the agenda, among other motions, the BOE approved the 2021 Summer Hours for the following 12-month employees: Administrators, Secretaries, Technicians, and Technology Engineers. Lastly, On the Personnel portion of the agenda, as well as other motions, the Board of Education appointed new certificated and non-certificated staff for the 2020-21 school year. It also approved the transfer of non-certificated staff members for the 2020-21 school year, including the promotion of Marzena Rzeznik, Day Lead Custodian at the Sayreville Middle School (SMS), to the district Evening Buildings, Grounds and Security Supervisor.

During the Open Discussion portion of the meeting, Mr. Balka reviewed what was discussed during the last Finance and Infrastructure Committee Meeting, as did Mr. Walsh for the last Personnel Committee Meeting. Mrs. Bloom also shared news from the Middlesex County School Boards Association.

The next meeting will be on **Tuesday**, **April 20**<sup>th</sup>. During this meeting the Board will recognize and honor the SWMHS Top 10 Students. A complete copy of the **March 16**<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes will be posted on the BOE Meeting Minutes page of our website once they are approved by the BOE during the next BOE Meeting on **April 20**, **2021**.



Thanks to our magnificent teachers and instructional staff, our students continued to progress in learning and have a ton of fun doing so this past week. Our students in preschool, as well

our elementary schools had a great time learning about the Irish heritage while celebrating St. Patrick's Day. Our little scientists in the preschool also

had fun learning about

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the chemical reaction that occurs when mixing baking soda with vinegar. In our math classes at the high school, our students celebrated Pi Day. If you are unfamiliar with this, every year on March 14<sup>th</sup>, the world celebrates Pi Day to



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recognize the mathematical constant Pi, which defines as the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter in which the value is 3.14. Finally, at the Samsel Upper Elementary School, the students and staff honored its Breakfast "Golden Ticket" winners.

This past week our students, staff, and community members continued to impress us with their amazing accomplishments. We begin by wishing good luck to the 100 SWMHS Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) who will be competing in the Virtual State Leadership Conference, which kicked off last week and will continue for the next three weeks. With that said, we commend and congratulate Mr. Howard, SWMHS Social Studies Teacher and the FBLA Advisor, and the below members of the SWMHS FBLA, who received the noted Chapter Awards during last week's Opening Ceremony.

- National Anthem Singers Karen Korentang, Ann Murickan, Radia Nazah, and Krina Patel
- NJ FBLA Volunteer of the Year Brian E. Sheehan (will now represent SWMHS and NJ at the National Leadership Conference)
- NJ FBLA Businessperson of the Year Tina Farley (will now represent SWMHS and NJ at the National Leadership Conference)
- <u>FBLA Outstanding Local Chapter Adviser</u> Christopher Howard (will now represent SWMHS and NJ at the National Leadership Conference)
- Business Achievement Awards Vihaan Easwar and Ananya Kondur
- Community Service Award Kamil Szczech
- Community Service Challenge Sayreville War Memorial High School (2<sup>nd</sup> Place)
- Passport of Progress Sayreville War Memorial High School (2<sup>nd</sup> Place)
- Outstanding Chapter Sayreville War Memorial High School (2<sup>nd</sup> Place)
- NJ FBLA Gold Member Joshua Gorniak
- NJ FBLA Gold Officer Minal Patel
- <u>Chapter Awards (Overall)</u> Chapter Challenge, Operation: Uplift, Website Award of Merit, Gold Seal Chapter (2<sup>nd</sup> Consecutive Year)

Lastly we commend and congratulate SWMHS graduate Carlos Vargas, who was recently selected by NASA to be a postdoctoral researcher in the University of Arizona's Steward Observatory, which will lead a \$20 million mission to build a space telescope that will map vast regions of star-forming gas that have eluded observation for decades. Read an article about it by clicking <a href="here">here</a>. Bomber Nation salutes these and all our students, staff, and community members for representing Sayreville in such an impeccable manner. They Rock!

In athletics, we commend and congratulate SWMHS Boys Bowler Brian Pawelek for placing first overall in the Greater Middlesex Conference (GMC). Brian was also named to the GMC All White Division and All Conference teams with a 223.44 average as a junior. Likewise, we congratulate and commend SWMHS Girls Bowlers Jamaya Mayer's, Skylar Pabon, and Amber Bender on making the GMC All White Division Team. As a freshman, Jamaya placed 8<sup>th</sup> overall in the GMC. Finally, we congratulate and commend SWMHS junior Boys Swimmer Henry Lynch for breaking



the school record in the 200 IM (2:09.08) set by Antonino Tramontana in 2017. Henry's amazing record time was 2:08.25. Win or lose, all our amazing student athletes continued to compete fiercely and demonstrate the teamwork and sportsmanship that makes us all proud to be Bombers. Thus, we thank them and their coaches for their hard work, dedication, and the manner in which they represent SWMHS and our community. Although we now allow



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parents to attend indoor sports events, please remember that you can still view all the action by watching them on the live streaming links posted on the Athletics page of our website or by clicking **here**.

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As per our 2021-21 School District Calendar, which you can access by clicking <a href="here">here</a>, and the March Head of the Class Calendar, which you can also see by clicking <a href="here">here</a>, please remember that 2<sup>nd</sup> Trimester Marking Period Report Cards for students in Grades K-5 will be issued on March 25<sup>th</sup>. Finally, please note that our schools will be <a href="closed">closed</a> for Spring Break and therefore there will be <a href="no in-person">no in-person</a> nor <a href="virtual instruction">virtual instruction</a> from April 2<sup>nd</sup> through April 9<sup>th</sup>.



On January 29, 2021, the district officially opened registration for our free Full-Day Project Before Preschool and Kindergarten Programs. Therefore, parents of ALL eligible (must be 3 for preschool and 5 for kindergarten by September 30, 2021) preschool and kindergarten students are invited to visit our website in order to register via Oncourse Connect, our online registration software. The link to student registration will be clearly identified on our district website homepage (www.sayrevillek12.net) as "Student"

<u>Registration</u>". Once on this registration page, you can obtain pertinent information regarding the registration of all students including preschool and kindergarten students, and you can begin completing the online registration application by clicking on one of the following links noted in the 2021-2022 Project Before and Kindergarten text box: <u>New Student Registration Preschool and Kindergarten</u> or <u>Returning Student Enrollment Update for students entering grades PreK and Kindergarten during the 2021-2022 school year.</u>

As was the case last spring, the district is now permitted to provide **FREE** meals for **ALL** parents who wish to order breakfast and/or lunch for their child(ren). Therefore, if you would like to order **FREE** prepackaged bagged breakfasts and lunches daily, please do so on **My School Bucks** by clicking **here.** For more information on how to order through **My School Bucks**, **download the app**, and to see the **delivery locations** as well as the **estimated times of delivery**, click **here**. Finally, to **apply for free and/or reduced lunch** for your child, click **here**. Finally, if you have additional questions, please email Nancy Mannino (nancy.mannino@sayrevillek12.net), our director of Food Services.

If you or someone you know would like to **advertise** with us on our **website** and via **Bomber Blasts**, you should click **here** and submit an inquiry with *School Revenue Partners*. Naturally, we will continue to Bomber Blast activity information and community service announcements for our schools and the greater community at no cost. Likewise, if you would like to advertise on our **busses**, click **here**. Lastly, if you or someone you know wants to **lease our facilities**, contact Deborah DeVico at **deborah.devico@savrevillek12.net**.

Have a wonderful week! Dr. Labbe