



Dr. Adele V. Pecora • Superintendent of Schools

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August 6, 2021

Dear Seaford Community,

I hope that you and your families have been able to enjoy the summer weather. Over the last two days, the Board of Education and I have received several inquiries regarding the protocols for the start of the school year. Unexpectedly, New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) announced yesterday that school districts will not be receiving guidance regarding the opening of schools in September. At this time, the NYSDOH has said that school districts should develop their own plans for school opening in the fall. The only direction that we have received from the New York State Education Department (NYSED) Commissioner and the NYSDOH Commissioner is to use the most current CDC guidance to create our reopening plans.

Yesterday, in response to the surprising announcement by NYSDOH, the NYSED Commissioner, Betty Rosa, has asked the NYSDOH to reconsider and share guidance with school districts. We may or may not receive additional information from New York State. In the meantime, the Seaford School District Reopening of Schools Task Force is continuing to plan for the start of the school year realizing that we may need to adjust our protocols if the State releases information. Currently, the school district will move forward and use the CDC guidance as a starting point for reopening schools.

As of August 6, 2021, we are planning the following:

- Schools will reopen for in-person instruction starting Wednesday, September 1, 2021.
- Traditional school start times and schedules will be in place.
- Middle and high school students will move to different classrooms for each course.
- Students will be able to participate in all clubs and activities.
- Student barriers will not be used during instruction.
- School lunches will be available for all students.
- Hallways and school lockers will be open for use.
- Masks will be required for school bus transportation.

Of course, all of us are concerned about whether the schools will open with universal masking or optional mask use. Before making a final determination, we are waiting to see if additional information is released by the State. Admittedly, nothing is more frustrating than for parents and employees to see procedures revised over and over again. The mask decision, along with many others, will be guided by the local infection rate, the CDC guidance, as well as any new mandates from the New York State Education Department and/or Departments of Health. We are closely monitoring the situation to ensure a successful start of school in September.

I remain optimistic that we will be able to restore many traditional experiences while keeping everyone safe and our schools open. As always, I will keep the community updated regarding any new developments and working together, we will remain Seaford Strong!

Very truly yours,
Adele Pecora
Adele V. Pecora, Ed.D
Superintendent of Schools

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