Stockbridge Valley
Central School District

2022-23 School Opening Plan

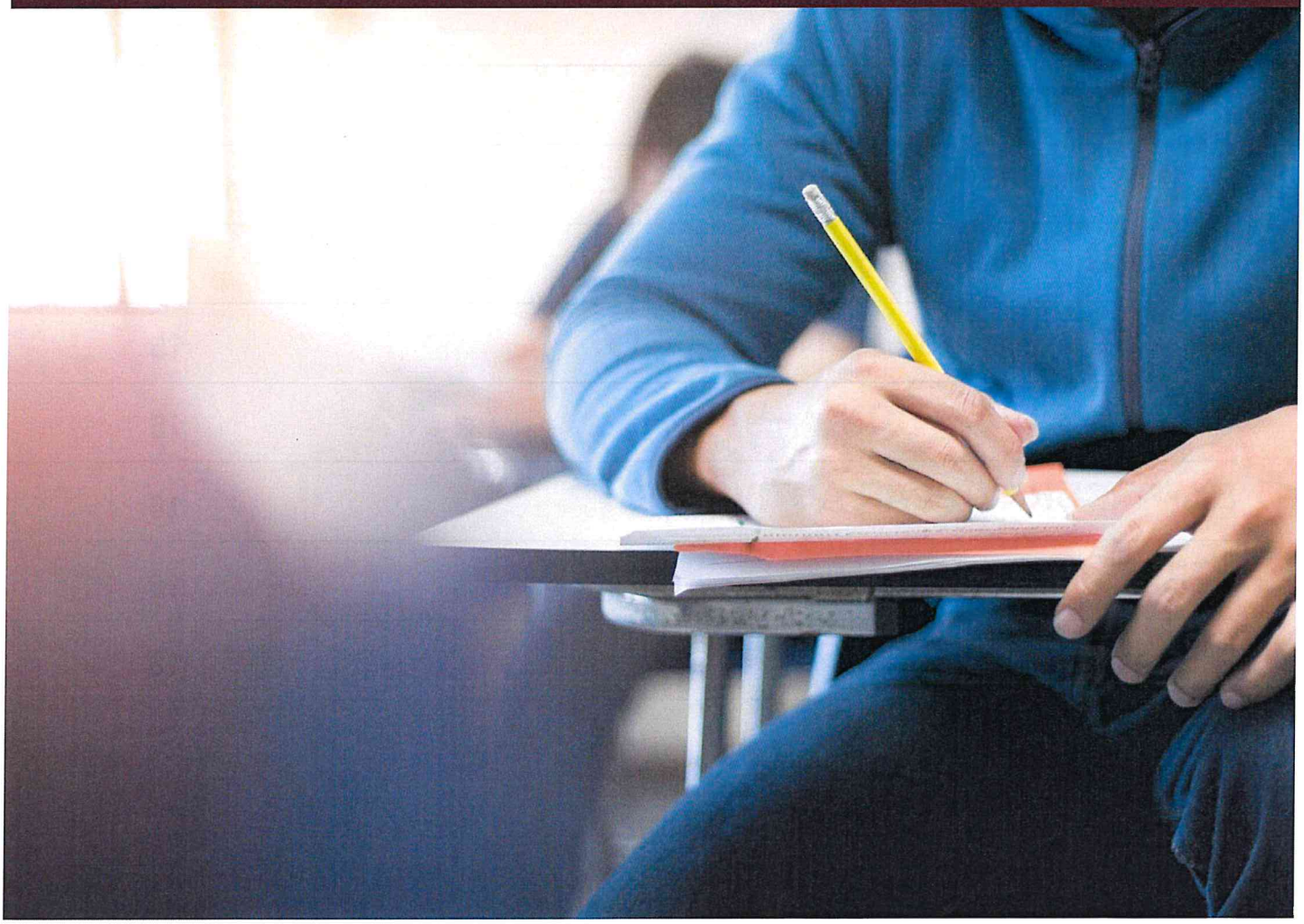


Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION	3
OPENING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS	4
DEVELOPMENT ASSUMPTIONS and GOALS for the SVCS REOPENING PLAN	5
LEARNING MODEL CONTINUUM	6
COMMUNICATIONS and FAMILY ENGAGEMENT	6
HEALTH and SAFETY	7-10
CLEANING and DISINFECTION	11
FACILITIES and VENTILATION	12
CHILD NUTRITION	12
TRANSPORTATION	13
SOCIAL and EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING	13-14
TEACHING and LEARNING MODELS	15
TECHNOLOGY and CONNECTIVITY	15
SPECIAL EDUCATION	15
EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES	16
STAFF	16
NYSED REGULATIONS AND LAW	16

INTRODUCTION

The SVCS community is excited to welcome students back to instruction in the fall of 2022. We hope that the upcoming school year will be one that allows for all SVCS traditions to occur. Our goal is to provide in-person learning for all students throughout the entire school year.

As community health conditions may change and evolve over the course of the year, the District needs to be ready to adjust when changes to the guidance occurs. Our plan continues to follow recommendations and requirements for school opening provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the NYS Department of Health (DOH), the State Education Department (NYSED) and state and local health officials.

The health and safety of our students, our staff and their families is our top priority. We want students and employees to feel comfortable and safe on the school campuses. Our opening plan incorporates recommendations and guidance, as may be applicable from the following institutions/agencies:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH)
- New York State Education Department (NYSED)
- Preparing K-12 School Administrators for a Safe Return to School in Fall 2022
- DOH Interim Guidance for In-person Instruction At Pre-k To Grade 12 Schools
- Covid-19 Public Health Emergency
- RECOVERING, REBUILDING, AND RENEWING: THE SPIRIT OF NEW YORK'SSCHOOLS- NYSED REOPENING GUIDANCE

~~RE~~OPENING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

SVCS Safety Committee

Joint Leadership Team

Corey Graves, Superintendent

Kathy Carney, Food Service Director

Cassandra Gleason, Guidance Counselor

Robert Healy, 7-12 Social Studies Teacher

Beth Lamb, Business Official
Brian Leach, Head Bus Driver

Chris Peto, Third Grade Teacher

Mattie Shea, Nurse

Lisa Hopkins, 7-12 Principal

Julie Suber, K-6 Principal, Director of Special Ed.

Mark Kiser, Athletic Director

The plan was also developed in partnership with the Madison County Department of Health (MCDOH)and SVCS Board of Education.

DEVELOPMENT ASSUMPTIONS and GOALS for the SVCS OPENING PLAN

COVID-19 Assumptions

There will still be active cases of COVID-19 in New York State and the surrounding region at the start of school and throughout the school year.

The virus can progress quickly and in many different ways throughout the school year, and guidance from local and state health officials may change quickly as a result.

Operational Assumptions

The District will need to be flexible to respond to changing community health-related conditions and evolving guidance from local and state health officials.

Our schools, students, families and staff will need to be prepared for various learning modalities as COVID-19 risks and related public health and safety needs change.

Changing COVID-19 conditions may require a temporary closure or partial closure.

Goals for the SVCS Opening Plan

Keeping students, faculty and staff safe and healthy.

Being empathetic and respectful of each individual's choices and individual needs.

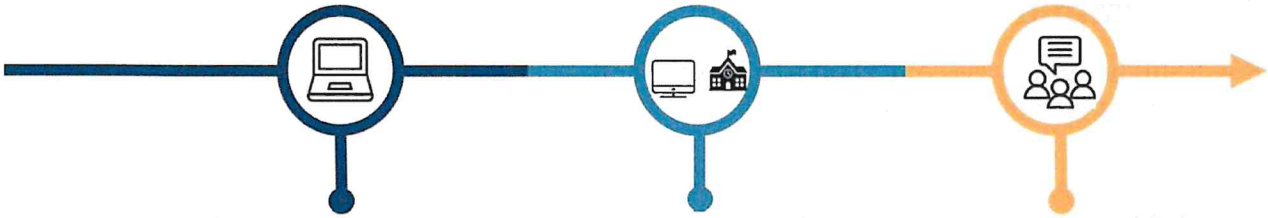
Protecting the social-emotional and mental health needs of students, faculty and staff.

Keeping in-person learning continuous and equitable.

Meeting the needs of all students by engaging families as active partners.

Maintaining flexibility to adapt to the changing public health landscape.

LEARNING MODEL CONTINUUM



Remote Learning

For students with an extraordinary medical condition diagnosed by a Certified Health Care Provider on an Individual Case by Case basis.

Hybrid Learning

No longer available

In-Person Learning

Students attending learning in school.

COMMUNICATIONS and FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

To help inform our opening plan, the District has sought feedback and input from stakeholders, including administrators, faculty, staff, students, parents/guardians of students, local health department officials' and health care providers, employee unions and community groups.

The District remains committed to communicating all elements of this opening plan to students, parents and guardians, staff and visitors. The plan is available to all stakeholders via the District website at https://sites.google.com/stockbridgevalley.org/back-to-school-updates, and will be updated throughout the school year, as necessary, to respond to local circumstances and any decisions made by the state or otherwise.

As part of its planning for the opening of schools and the new academic year, the District has developed a plan for communicating all necessary information to District staff, students, parents/guardians, visitors and education partners and vendors. The District will use its existing communication channels including a special page on the District's website, Facebook, Twitter, and Parent Square Messaging Student information System (SIS).

HEALTH and SAFETY

As we plan for the upcoming school year, we have been intentionally focused on ways to preserve healthy school and work environments, limit the spread of COVID-19, and implement systems to keep our communities healthy and safe. The protocols below reflect intensive conversations that our Health and Safety Committee and the various working groups have been engaged in with education professionals, including teachers, principals, superintendent, and the Board of Education. The District has also collaborated with public health experts from the Madison County Department of Public Health (MCDOH).Our process also included a thorough review of guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the New York state Department of Education (NYSED), as well as the New York State Department of Health NYSDOH.

Hand and Respiratory Hygiene

Experts agree that routine healthy hygiene practices are a foundational measure to protect against COVID-19. Everyone in our school buildings will be required to:

Exercise hand hygiene (hand washing or sanitizing) upon arrival to school, before eating, when using the restroom or whenever they are soiled.

Use soap and water to wash all surfaces of their hands for at least 20 seconds.

Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. If hand washing is not feasible, hand sanitizer will be provided throughout the building.

Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth.

Practice good respiratory etiquette, including covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue or elbow.

Additionally, students and staff must stay home if they are feeling sick or have any symptom associated with COVID-19. Those who become sick at school or work will be sent home immediately. More details are outlined in the Health & Safety Protocol.

Face Masks and Other Face Coverings

Cloth face coverings are meant to protect other people in case the wearer is unknowingly infected but does not have symptoms. Since respiratory droplets are the primary way that COVID-19 is transmitted, masks are among the most critical components of risk reduction. Individuals wishing to wear a face mask or other approved face covering that covers their mouth and nose while inside the school building will be afforded such choice. Other requirements and provisions are as follows:

The District will provide masks for staff upon request, or staff may choose to wear their own mask.

Health Checks Temperature Checks, Use of Personal Protective Equipment

Parents/guardians and staff members will be provided resources to educate them regarding the careful observations of symptoms of COVID-19. Parents/guardians and staff members will be instructed that any student or staff member with a fever of 100 degrees F or greater, and/or symptoms of possible COVID-19 virus infection, should not be present in school. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) keep an up to date list of symptoms of Coronavirus on its website. The following are listed as the most common symptoms of COVID-19:

- ☐ Fever or chills
- ☐ Cough
- ☐ Fatigue
- ☐ Muscle or body aches
- ☐ Headaches
- ☐ New loss of taste or smell
- ☐ Sore throat
- ☐ Congestion or runny rose
- ☐ Nausea or vomiting; and/ or
- ☐ Diarrhea

Staff will be trained to observe students or other staff members for signs of any type of illness such as:

- ☐ Flush cheeks;
- ☐ Rapid or difficulty breathing (without recent physical activity);
- ☐ Fatigue, and/or irritability; and
- ☐ Frequent use of the bathroom

Students and staff exhibiting these signs with no other explanation for them will be sent to the schoolhealth office for an assessment by the school nurse.

Students and staff are required to notify the school when they develop symptoms.

Screenings

Employees are required to report if they test positive for COVID-19, if they develop symptoms consistent therewith, or if they are self-isolating due to suspected or known exposure to COVID-19.

We will continue to monitor guidance from the NYSDOH around travel restrictions and quarantine requirements, and revise our health screening practices accordingly.

Response to a Symptomatic Student or Employee

If a person becomes symptomatic while in a District building, the protocol for medical evaluation, potential isolation, follow-up and return to the District can be found at https://sites.google.com/stockbridgevalley.org/back-to-school-updates.

COVID-19 Testing

NYSDOH recommends testing in the presence of symptoms, and/or when an individual has been exposed to someone with COVID-19. Staff and students' families should consult with health care providers concerning further details on testing.

Contact Tracing

When notified of a staff member or student with a confirmed case of COVID-19, the District will coordinate with MCDOH on COVID-19 reporting and response efforts.

Response to Positive COVID-19 Test

Consistent with NYS regulations for communicable diseases, if an individual in a school or office is confirmed, suspects, or has been in contact with someone confirmed to have COVID-19, the District's point of contact (Corey Graves, Superintendent) will notify MCDOH and receive direction on next steps that could include, and are not limited to, whether to quarantine the class, school, or District; providing necessary information for MCDOH to conduct contact tracing; and when individuals can resume school or work. Additionally, consistent with both notification requirements for other communicable diseases and legal confidentiality, the school District will follow NYSDOH regulationsfor exposure to a communicable disease.

In the event that a student needs to quarantine and is asymptomatic, the student will be required to continue to attend school remotely and their attendance will be marked as though they were attendingface-to-face each day.

Work and School Day

The guidelines for return to work and school can be found at https://sites.google.com/stockbridgevalley.org/back-to-school-updates

Aerosol Generating Procedures

Respiratory treatments administered by nurses generally result in aerosolization of respiratory secretions.These aerosol generating procedures (AGPs) potentially put healthcare personnel and others at an in- creased risk for pathogen exposure and infection. The CDC recommends PPE use when administering AGPs. PPE consists of:

- Gloves;
- N95 or surgical facemask;
- In lieu of N95 - a surgical mask with face shield;
- Eye protection; and
- A gown (if necessary).

PPE should be used when:

- Suctioning;
- Administering nebulizer treatments; or
- Using peak flow meters with students who have respiratory conditions.

Treatments such as nebulized medication treatments and oral or tracheostomy suctioning should be conducted in a room separate from others with nursing personnel wearing appropriate PPE. For nebulizer treatments, if developmentally appropriate, the nurse could leave the room and return when the nebulizer treatment is finished. Cleaning of the room should occur between each use and cleaning of the equipment should be done following manufacturer's instructions after each use. The CDC recommends[6] during the COVID-19 pandemic that respiratory medications utilizing metered dose inhalers (MDI) with a spacer or valved holding chamber be used over nebulizer treatments whenever possible. Nebulizer treatments at school should be reserved for children who cannot use an MDI (with or without spacer or valved holding chamber). Use of peak flow meters, including in the school setting, includes forcefulexhalation. Based on limited available data, forceful exhalation is not considered an aerosol-generatingprocedure associated with increased risk of transmitting the virus that causes COVID-19. However, forsome people with asthma, using a peak flow meter can trigger coughing.

Classroom, School or Building Closure

Guidance regarding the closure or dismissal of a classroom, school and/or other District facility due to COVID-19 will be provided by MCDOH. The decision to close or dismiss students and/or staff from any District facility does not rest with the District. MCDOH will work closely with the District's appointed designee(s) to make the determination that best addresses the specific circumstances. Decisions about closures will be made carefully, and with the health, safety and needs of our students and families in mind. As a situation evolves and decisions are made, communications will be sent out to all necessary stakeholders.

CLEANING and DISINFECTION

Custodial staff will be trained in daily cleaning practices, specialized/responsive cleaning, enhanced disinfecting techniques and howto respond to emergency situations as they arise.

The District has purchased electrostatic backpack sprayers to support custodial staff with sanitation measures.

Hand Sanitizer Stations with at least a 60% alcohol-based sanitizer are mounted and maintained outside of entrances/exits, entryways of cafeterias and bathrooms, at the ends of hallways and inside of Health Suites.

Classrooms will also be provided with hand sanitizer and cleaning supplies.

Identified 'high touch points' will be disinfected at a higher frequency of at least every four hours.

Custodial staff will ensure that all handwashing sinks are operational and have clean running water,soap and paper towels. If a sink becomes inoperable, immediate steps will be taken to repair it or a hand sanitizer will be provided in its place until the repair occurs.

Students will not be present when disinfectants are in use and should not participate in cleaning and/or disinfection activities.

School Health Office Cleaning

School health office cleaning must occur after each use of:

- Cots;
- Bathroom; and
- Health office equipment (e.g. blood pressure cuffs, otoscopes, stethoscopes, etc.) should be cleaned following manufacturer's directions.
- Disposable items should be used as much as possible including:
- Disposable pillow protectors; or
- Disposable thermometers, or disposable thermometer sheaths or probes, and disposable otoscope specula.

Cafeteria Cleaning

The cafeteria will be cleaned and sanitized on a daily basis.

FACILITIES and VENTILATION

The District has clear protocols for the enhancement and maintenance of filtration and ventilation. The protocols are as follows: filtration and ventilation meet or exceed minimum requirements. The protocols serve to ensure adequate, code required ventilation (natural or mechanical), with the goal of increasing ventilation with outdoor air to the greatest extent possible (e.g., opening windows and doors) while maintaining health and safety protocols, particularly for younger students. Working with engineers, the District has established proper filtration requirements, both type and frequency of replacement.

Safety Drills

We will be conducting lockdown and fire drills according to Standard Operating procedures.

Restroom Protocol

The number of people permitted in a restroom will be determined by the size of space and layout of restroom partitions to ensure at least three feet of distance between individuals.

Water: Students should bring their own water bottles that are clearly labeled with their name. Touchless hydration stations will be used for replenishing water.

CHILD NUTRITION

Continuing to provide students with access to healthy meals remains a high priority for the District.

Breakfast: Students will be offered breakfast in the cafeteria.

Lunch: Students will be offered lunch in the cafeteria.

Students will be required to clean their hands with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer prior to eating.

TRANSPORTATION

We know that students arrive at school in multiple ways: using District-provided transportation or arriving in a personal vehicle. Regardless of how anyone gets to and from school, students, staff, and family members are required to adhere to the District's health and safety measures to do their part in protecting our community.

Students who are provided District Transportation will be following specific rules as follows:

- There will be assigned seats on buses
- Enhanced cleaning protocols will be followed as necessary

Prior to the start of the school year, families of students riding District transportation services will receive a Parent Notification Letter that includes route information and additional supplemental procedures. Parents will also receive their class schedule with arrival and dismissal times in advance of the start of the school year.

SOCIAL and EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING

The district will focus on Social Emotional Well-Being that is designed to address the needs of our students,staff, and families. The four focus areas are:

1) Mental health and trauma; 2) social-emotional learning; 3) relationships and community; and 4)adult wellness.

Mental Health and Trauma:

In addition to mental health providers, the District will provide:

- In-person counseling for students and families.
- A needs assessment to be conducted for teachers, staff, students, and parents to assess the mental health needs of all in order to implement appropriate emotional supports and services along with referrals to community supports as needed.
- An advisory council will be established to inform the comprehensive developmental school counseling plan.
- Multi-Tiered System of Supports in place to address SEL, mental health, and well-being supports offered at all levels
- Address professional development opportunities for faculty and staff on how to talk with and support students as well as provide supports for developing coping skills for students, faculty, and staff

Social-emotional learning:

The District recognizes that support for social-emotional well-being and resiliency of students and staff is necessary. There will be substantial time spent on developing a cohesive support system to address social-emotional needs for students and staff. Professional development on integrating social-emotional learning with academic learning.

- ☐ Learning activities that can be implemented live or virtually based on results of the needs assessment.
- ☐ Continue to implement our Social Emotional Programs:
    - Capturing Kids Hearts (K-12)
    - SVCS Character Education Program (K-6)

Relationships and Community:

The District will provide:

- ☐ Grade-specific relationships and community-building activities that can be implemented in-person such as student orientations
- ☐ Ongoing communication and involvement of the community via surveys, reopening website, and school messages.
- ☐ Information regarding how to seek support for those with specific concerns.

Adult Wellness:

The District will provide:

- ☐ Information on addressing trauma, including a mental health survey and grief counseling.
- ☐ Self-care as part of school culture.
- ☐ Identify community resources available to support school staff.

Stockbridge Valley School Counseling Program Multiple Tier Support System

SVCS will be following a multi-tiered support system for students and staff.

TEACHING and LEARNING MODELS

Stockbridge Valley CSD will provide in-person learning for all students. Remote learning will no longer be an instructional option for students unless the child is facing any extraordinary medical conditions diagnosed by a Certified Health Care Provider.

TECHNOLOGY and CONNECTIVITY

We are a 1-to-1 school District. Students in kindergarten through second grade will receive iPads and students in third through twelfth grades will receive Chromebooks for use in the daily instruction. Devices will be sent home with students on a daily basis to ensure continuous learning and must be returned every day.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

The district will make reasonable efforts to address the provision of free appropriate public education, while protecting thehealth and safety of students with disabilities and those providing special education services.

A comprehensive Special Education framework was developed to ensure there is an understanding of the provision of services consistent with the recommendations on individualized education programs, plans for monitoring and communicating student progress and commitment to sharing resources.

The plan also addresses access to the necessary accommodations, modifications, supplementary aids and services, and technology (including assistive technology) to meet the unique disability-related needsof students.

In the event of a school closure information about the provision of services to a child to meet the requirements of the IDEA shall be communicated via the district's website at
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ijmPQiHTQShmCbO-nu7DzdrPSUeDErtqo/view?usp=sharing

BILINGUAL EDUCATION AND WORLD LANGUAGES

In the event of a school closure the need to complete the ELL identification process within 30 school days of the start of the school year for all students, as well as all students who enroll during summer and during the first 20 school days of the following school year will be completed to the greatest extent possible.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Extracurricular Activities, including interscholastic athletics, will follow guidance from the NYS Department of Health and the New York State Public High School Athletic Association.

STAFF

Teacher & Principal Evaluation

All teachers and principals will continue to be evaluated pursuant to the district's approved APPR plan, until further notice.

Certification, Incidental Teaching and Substitute Teaching

All teachers will hold valid and appropriate certificates for teaching assignment, except where otherwise allowable under the Commissioner's regulations (e.g., incidental teaching) or education law.

NYSED REGULATIONS AND LAW

All provisions described are subject to change based upon revisions to NYSED regulations, NY StateDepartment of Health Guidance and/or changes to NY State law