



August 27, 2021

Dear South Huntington Families:

As we begin to enter the 2021-2022 school year, South Huntington School District has been working on back-to-school plans to ensure the safety and security of all students, staff and community members. In our continued effort to keep you informed as our planning for the school year evolves, our District is expecting updated guidance from the New York State Department of Health this week after the new Governor of New York State is sworn in.

We are confident that this new guidance provided by the State will encompass the suggestions made by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), providing set procedures and protocols to allow the safest way to keep our buildings open with all students consistently in school. As previously communicated, the plan in South Huntington is to have five days per week of in-person instruction for all students, along with athletics, extra-curricular activities and busing.

As this guidance continues to come over the summer and into the new school year, our District has communicated with numerous individuals at both the local and State Health Department levels to ensure a seamless transition to the new school year. Based upon the current information received, our current back-to-school plans are as follows:

- Schools will reopen fully in-person for all students starting on Wednesday, September 1st, 2021
- **As per New York State Department of Health mandate, all students and staff are required to wear masks while indoors.**
- All schools will be following a pre-pandemic school schedule (start time and end time):

Countrywood	8:20 a.m. to 2:35 p.m.
Oakwood	8:20 a.m. to 2:35 p.m.
Birchwood	9:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Maplewood	9:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Silas Wood	8:05 a.m. to 2:55 p.m.
Stimson	8:05 a.m. to 2:55 p.m.
Walt Whitman	7:30 a.m. to 2:10 p.m.

- Within all academic classrooms, students will sit at least three feet apart. In all music classrooms, with the exception of Orchestra and Chorus (masked), all students utilizing wind instruments will sit at least 6 feet apart. In all lunchrooms, considerable efforts will be made to keep students 6 feet apart through the utilization of tents and outdoor eating spaces.
- All classrooms have a Merv-16 rated portable air cleaner.
- Hallways and lockers will be open for use, except for gym lockers.
- Masks will be required for anyone riding School District buses in compliance with the NYSED/NYSDOH mandates.
- The District will no longer use “desk shields” or barriers between desks and lunch tables.
- Remote synchronous learning within South Huntington classrooms will only be utilized for students who have been quarantined due to exposure to COVID-19. If a student is absent, he or she will have access to work through their teacher (if needed).
- Continued frequent cleanings of all common areas and classrooms throughout the school day. Deep cleaning procedures of all classrooms continued daily.

To assist students who are medically unable to attend school in-person due to serious illness, South Huntington will be participating in the Western Suffolk BOCES Regional Virtual School beginning on September 20, 2021. Enrollment into the BOCES program must come at the request of a physician and will be further evaluated by District health professionals. A doctor's statement must specify the medical reason for the student's inability to attend school. For more information on the Western Suffolk BOCES Regional Virtual School, please call (631) 812-3150.

It is our hope by outlining these procedures and safety protocols, we will transition into the 2021-2022 school year with ease. Please know that we will continue to ensure that your child's educational experiences here in South Huntington will always remain positive, despite the obstacles faced. We know that this can only be accomplished through the continued communication and support shared by both the School District and our South Huntington community. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at any time so that we can work through these obstacles together.

Respectfully,



Vito M. D'Elia, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools