



SPXS RETURN TO SCHOOL – SEPTEMBER 2020

August 6, 2020

RETURN TO SCHOOL

As of August 6th, our plan for return to school focuses on:

Creating an environment where all students are able to physically return to school on-site five days a week.

Integrating procedural safeguards to maintain a healthy and safe environment for students and staff.

The first safeguard implemented will be a modified start to prepare each grade/grade level to adjustments to school life. All students, except PreK, will return to school the week of August 31, 2020 on this schedule:

Tuesday, September 1	Gr. 5-8- ONLY-going through new procedures and expectations, practicing them, followed by a modified schedule
Wednesday, September 2	Gr. 3 and 4- ONLY-going through new procedures and expectations, practicing them, followed by a modified schedule
Thursday, September 3	Kindergarten- Gr. 2- ONLY- going through new procedures and such, modified schedule
Monday, September 7	Labor Day-NO SCHOOL
Tuesday, September 8	Kindergarten- Grade 8 return for first full day together PreKindergarten Play Date

The second important safeguard- if anyone is traveling out of state prior to the start of school, to anywhere not included on the Massachusetts “lower risk” list, you should self-quarantine for two weeks upon your return, even if this means you miss the start of the school year.

CLASSES/CLASSROOMS

Classes will be set up to allow for at least minimum required spacing.

All students return with cafeteria, gym, and library used as classroom or educational spaces. This will provide additional classroom space for social distancing.

Students will remain, as much as possible, with a cohort group.

A cohort is the class or a smaller group within the class, with whom they will be seated.

Most classes are smaller. If a grade is larger, it will either be split into two different classrooms, or two smaller cohorts within a larger space (like the cafeteria). Cohort sizes were determined by the square footage available in a space.

Specialists will come to the classrooms.

Middle School classes will change rooms for limited classes.

Our Gr. 7 and 8 will create a wider cohort, as they are leveled for Math class and there is some mixing.

As students will remain predominantly in classrooms- they will need mask breaks, brain breaks, and opportunities to stretch.

All students will have a morning recess and a lunch recess.

We will reduce sharing of items- students, especially Middle School students, should be prepared each day with all they need for school- including writing implements.

Windows will be opened to allow for ventilation in learning spaces.

We will be introducing livestreaming, beginning with Middle School levels, then adding Lower School when and where necessary.

HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

Masks- masks are to be provided from home. Each student who requires a mask should have a clean, cloth, solid-colored mask each day.

All students Gr. 2 and above wear masks covering nose and mouth.

Masks are strongly encouraged for K and Gr. 1.

If riding the bus- ALL students wear a mask.

Masks removed for meals and mask breaks.

Mask medical exemption- letter required from doctor.

Staff, visitors, vendors are required to wear masks.

Handwashing

Teachers will re-teach and reinforce handwashing lessons.

Students wash hands or apply hand sanitizer upon arrival, before and after lunch.

Hand sanitizers located in all classes with dispensers in hallways and office.

Physical Distancing

Minimum of 3 ft. apart, with 6 ft. distance where feasible for class.

During meals, mask breaks, and other times masks not worn, 6 ft. minimum distance.

Masks may be removed for recess as long as students are social distancing.
Travel routes established in hallways.
Distancing decals on floors will assist students with social distancing.

Temperature Checks

Temperature checks will *not* be taken by staff. Students should have their temperature taken at home prior to leaving for school.
No child should be sent to school with an elevated temperature.

Nurse's Office

Will follow CDC and MDPH guidelines regarding sending students to nurse's office to avoid contact with possible COVID-19 case.

COVID related procedures required will be implemented as indicated in the July 17, 2020 [***Protocols for Responding to COVID-19 Scenarios in School, on the Bus, or in Community Settings.***](#)

The exception is Section 1: *Protocols for individual exposure or individual positive test Part 4.* We will alert those within the school community should a member of the student body or staff test positive. If considered a "close contact" they will be told that additional information.

Isolation Room is available in the event someone is presumed to have COVID-19

School has purchased PPEs, as required by health guidelines, that include but are not limited to:

- No-touch thermometers
- Disposable gloves, masks, and gowns
- N-95 masks, eye protection, and face shields for the nurse
- Hand sanitizer and no-touch dispensers for hallway/office
- Covered wastebaskets for classes

IF A STUDENT OR STAFF MEMBER IS SICK

A student or staff member exhibiting any of the following symptoms should remain home, or if in school, will be sent home:

- Fever (100.4° Fahrenheit or higher), chills, or shaking chills
- Cough (not due to other known cause, such as chronic cough)
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Headache *when in combination with other symptoms*

- Muscle aches or body aches
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
- Fatigue, when in combination with other symptoms
- Nasal congestion or runny nose (not due to other known causes, such as allergies) *when in combination with other symptoms*

If staff or students has any of these symptoms, they must get a test for active COVID-19 infection prior to returning to school.

If test is positive:

Remain at home at least 10 days **and** until at least 3 days have passed with no fever and improvement in other symptoms.

Monitor symptoms.

Notify the school and personal close contacts.

Answer the call from local board of health or Massachusetts Community Tracing.

Collaborative to help identify close contacts to help them prevent transmission.

Secure release from contact tracers (local board of health or Community Tracing Collaborative) for return to school.

If test is negative

Return to school after 24 hours symptom free, with no medication during those 24 hours.

If individual is not tested

Self-quarantine for 14 days.

Must be symptom-free upon return to school.

The School's Response

If there is a single case in the school:

The cohort or class families will be notified that a student in the class is impacted, without identifying the individual.

Anyone else who is considered to have been in close contact with the individual who tests positive should be notified.

Other school members will be notified there is a positive case in the school, without identifying student or class.

The entire class would be cleaned and disinfected.

If more than one case is present:

A determination would be made about closing the school, after consultation with the Board of Health, MDPH, and the superintendent of schools.

If a decision is made to close the school, the building would be cleaned and disinfected

Please refer to the [Protocols for Responding to COVID-19 Scenarios in School, on the Bus, or in Community Settings](#), posted on the school website, for additional information.

CLEANING AND DISINFECTING

Cleaning in classroom

Desks cleaned before/after lunch with disposable wipes.

High-touch surfaces cleaned multiple times.

General school cleaning and disinfecting

Protocols established and followed for class, bathroom, hallways, entire building.

All classes- cleaned and disinfected daily

High touch surfaces cleaned at least 3-4 times a day.

If classes change- desks cleaned between classes.

Electronic devices cleaned after use.

Playground structures- disinfected at least daily (custodial staff) or between use.

TRANSPORTATION

Guidelines from the supplement to the Commissioner of Education's [Fall Re-Opening Transportation Guidance](#) will be followed:

Students riding the bus must be signed up for the bus.

Bus pick up or drop off locations must be standard. They can no longer change on a day-to-day basis.

A student not assigned to a bus can no longer ride home with a friend on the bus

Bus capacity is limited to 24 seats with only one student per seat- unless siblings ride the bus as siblings may sit together in a seat.

All students riding the bus must wear a mask.

Upper-Cape Bus- **Important!**

The Upper-Cape Bus will run, but is limited to *24 families*. Mrs. Kostecki has contacted families who initially confirmed they wanted a seat. Families will send in a deposit to reserve the seat. Currently, there is a short waiting list for the bus, and those on the waiting list will be moved up if/when a spot becomes available.

ARRIVAL

Doors will be propped open at arrival time- with adult supervision- to limit contact with door

Buses

Students disperse and go directly to classrooms, following established route.

Cars

All cars will approach the school coming up Wood Rd, going alongside the field, dropping off riders at the assigned point. Cars exit by Barbara St. Carpooling with another family is encouraged and recommended. All family members or carpool members may be dropped off with the youngest student. You will be notified prior to school where your specific drop-off point is located.

DISMISSAL

With necessary adjustments to our usual plan and a reduction in after-school activities, at least for a while, more students will be headed home at the end of the day. Dismissal will take a bit longer than in the past.

Bus

Bus students will be dismissed first, at 2:10, with one bus called at a time.
Students will dismiss through lobby door.

Cars

Called after buses

All cars must have a placard with the family name visible in the windshield. This will help move dismissal along more quickly. All family members or carpool members will be picked up with the youngest student. You will be notified prior to school where your specific pick-up point is located.

These changes for dismissal will create a longer dismissal routine, until we all adjust to the new system.

RECESS

ALL GRADES- twice a day

Each grade will have their own outdoor recess area

Snack and recess outside, weather permitting

Afternoon recess- classes will split, if necessary, to make more space in class for 6 ft. spacing at lunch

LUNCH

Our school lunch program will begin September 14, 2020.

Until then- students should bring a lunch each day

We are investigating the use of an online payment platform, and will keep you posted.

BEFORE and AFTER SCHOOL ACTIIVITIES

Limited activities will be offered to students who attend school onsite.

Before-Care

Students may still arrive at 7:30, but pre-registration will be required.

After-Care

After-Care is an area that will be impacted for the start of our year. It will be offered- on a limited scale, beginning September 9, 2020. We know some of our families are dependent on After-Care for their child-care, and want the option to be available. However, at least for the start of the year, these adjustments will be made to the program:

After-Care will be limited to a total of 15 students.

There will be no “drop-in” students

Preference will be given to those who utilize it five days a week

The billing structure for After Care will change from an hourly fee to a weekly fee of \$120 each week per child, billed monthly

Study Hall

Study Hall will be offered Mon.-Thur. for Middle School students. Study Hall will be staffed by Middle School teachers, and will begin the week of Sept. 14th.

Athletics

The Fall Athletic Program for Middle School students will begin Sept. 14th. Certain aspects of the program will need to be adjusted to keep with our safety protocols. Information will be shared by Mr. Corsi.

Other activities, for the present, are on hold. As school resumes, hopefully they will start up again.

REMOTE LEARNING

Keeping on top of the ever-changing news, we are aware that COVID-19 is still active. Our plans to continue learning on-site could very likely be interrupted at any point in the school year. We are aware we could need to return to a schoolwide remote learning model. We have reviewed our previous remote leaning model, requested input from our community members, have reviewed the [Remote Learning Guidance](#) from DESE (also on our website), and have purchased

technology that will aid us in offering a stronger instructional program. This will align with state standards and student and family needs, and will better mirror the classroom learning experience. New remote capabilities will be available beginning in September with our Middle School classes, followed shortly after by Lower School.

We are also aware that some families may prefer a remote learning model for their child/children this year. If so, please register your preference on the enclosed form.



Remote Learning Registration

Please return this form as soon as possible.

Remote Learning is intended for families who feel more comfortable having their children remain at home on a regular basis- at least to begin the year. This form indicates your decision to choose that format on a five-day basis for your child. It is not an option for some days, but not others.

If you do choose this option, daily attendance will be taken, all work must be completed, and your child is ineligible to participate in after-school activities during the time spent learning remotely.

If, after a period of time, you are comfortable sending your child back daily, just let us know, and we will be happy to see him or her return!

Student Name _____ Grade _____

Student Name _____ Grade _____

Student Name _____ Grade _____

I am choosing to have my child begin the year learning remotely.

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____