

SANBORN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

51 Church Street ♦ Kingston, NH 03848

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October 2, 2020

Hello Sanborn Community!

It's amazing that we are already in October. Nature is putting on a show with the trees covered in a lovely autumn hue.

We have been incredibly busy in all the schools. Our educators and staff have been working diligently and delivering lessons to our students, which have been going well with the support of all the families. Thank you for all you've been doing to support the learning!

Before we share this important announcement we want to take a moment to reflect on how complex the situation is. It is critical to remember that any plan we develop is contingent on the following:

1. The status of community transmission of COVID-19 (ours is currently extremely low).
2. The availability of staff. Staffing is not fully within the control of the district. We cannot "tell people to come to work" when they qualify for leave afforded by law from the federal government. In an effort to support teachers who have school age children the school board is allowing any Sanborn Regional School District employee to enroll their school aged children in Sanborn at no cost for the 2020-21 school year. This creative solution will allow staff to come back to work and keep their children on the same schedule as their work schedule.
3. The burden of health and safety protocols required by the State of New Hampshire, our insurance company, and the CDC are going to be disruptive. The health and safety protocols will be explained in more detail below.

If any one of these variables changes in the coming weeks we will have to reevaluate and possibly change direction.

Finally, we want to be very clear about one very important point: The Sanborn Regional School District staff (including administration) all want school to reopen. We are working diligently to achieve just that despite the unprecedented obstacles we face.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION FOR INSTRUCTIONAL TIER

I'm reaching out to give you all an update on the status of our district regarding in-person learning.

As you know, we have been in remote instruction, Tier 4, since starting school on September 8th.

Looking at the data, we are seeing very low rates of COVID transmission in the towns of Kingston, Newton and Fremont. This carries over to our student absenteeism, with very few students reporting illness.

As a result of this data, at the October 7th school board meeting, administration will be proposing that the district open in Tier 2 - In-School with Restrictions as early as October 19th.

TIER 2 INSTRUCTION

The Sanborn Regional School district reopening plan, which is posted on the SAU website, outlines what Tier 2 means, but I want to take a moment to explain what reopening with restrictions will look like in our schools.

In Tier 2:

- All of our students will be attending school with a choice option. Students may be remote or in-person.
- Parents/guardians should be screening their children for symptoms of COVID-19 or risk factors for exposure before sending them to school. Students with any identifiable symptoms or risk factors shall not be sent to school. Any student with even mild symptoms related to COVID-19 must stay home and get tested for COVID-19.
- Any staff or students displaying any of the COVID symptoms (fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and/or diarrhea) will be sent home and are required to take a COVID test.
- Test results must be shared with the school nurse. In the event that the school nurse is unavailable, please contact a school administrator.
- Student temperature will be taken upon arrival to their first class of the day. The same is expected of staff.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Due to the significant expectations from the State of New Hampshire Department of Education and the New Hampshire Department of Public Health Services the "In-School plan" will feel somewhat disjointed because students and staff will have to be out of school more than normal should they display symptoms associated with COVID.

If the COVID test is negative, the student/staff member can return to school immediately once documentation is provided to the school nurse. In the event that the school nurse is unavailable, please contact a school administrator. If the test is positive, all individuals that the student/staff member has come in close contact with shall be quarantined as determined by DHHS.

Staff and students will be required to wear masks at all times. Some exceptions for mask wearing include eating lunch and other rare accommodations through the 504 or IEP process. Everyone will need to maintain physical distancing of 3-6 feet in the buildings with a strong preference of six feet of distancing as much as possible.

The process and schedule for eating lunches will be modified to accommodate social distancing during Tier 2.

SYNCHRONOUS LEARNING

All students will have access to rigorous, "synchronous" learning regardless of whether they are in school or remote. While this may look different from grade level to grade level or subject to subject, it does mean that educators will provide real-time instructional support at regular intervals. In most classes, students will view a livestream of a lesson online, while their peers are in class attending the lesson. Some programs, such as unified arts, may use different methods that make more sense for their project-based content areas.

We realize that we will need a flexible model that will allow students to engage with their learning regardless of their situation and location. Sanborn educators are working hard with their teams to align their understanding of what this will mean, and how they will leverage the tools and resources they have available to meet the needs of all learners.

The mission of the Sanborn Regional School District is to work in partnership with the community to educate all learners in a safe environment. Together we are committed to providing these individuals with opportunities to develop the skills necessary to become responsible citizens who are capable of pursuing knowledge independently and making well-informed decisions.

In accordance to Title IX of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 the Sanborn Regional School District prohibits discrimination because of sex or gender, "No person shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving federal assistance."

We appreciate your cooperation and patience as our educators prepare to do this for the first time and we will seek your feedback at various points along the way in an effort to ensure that our teaching and learning model is as robust and rigorous as possible.

SPECIAL EDUCATION AND 504 PLANS

Students with IEPs will be provided specialized and related services in-person if the student is attending school in-person. Students with IEPs will be provided specialized and related services remotely if the family chooses to access remote learning. Some and/or all of this remote specialized and related services will be provided synchronously should your child be working remotely. All decisions will be made through the IEP/504 team process regarding services/accommodations. If you have any questions, please contact your child's special education teacher and/or Special Education Building Coordinator.

NEXT STEPS

If this plan is adopted by the School Board on October 7th, 2020, each school will be contacting families. Please look for an important email regarding in-person or remote learning on October 8th. This email will include a [digital form](#) to let your child's school know if you would prefer to remain in a remote learning format. It will be assumed that any family who does not complete the form plans to send their student for in person learning. Once families have made this choice, they will not be allowed to change to the other format prior to our re-evaluation period in January 2021.

Important Links:

- [COVID-19 Schools Dashboard](#)
- [NH DPHS Matrices](#)
- [September Family Survey Results](#)

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Superintendent

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