

School Administrative Unit No. 7

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Debra J. Taylor, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools
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August 24, 2020

Dear SAU 7 Families,

Greetings! I know that we are all feeling a sense of excitement and many other emotions as we plan for the beginning of the new school year!

Our return to school will look very different this fall. The SAU 7 Board approved the fall reopening plan Monday, August 3. School will resume on Tuesday, September 8 with in person instruction. Our education system will need to be flexible and nimble, understanding that the priority of protecting the health of our students and families may require schools to operate in various formats at different times, with minimum advance notice.

Our [Fall Back to School Plan](https://tinyurl.com/y6344pbr) (<https://tinyurl.com/y6344pbr>) and related Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) provide details on the plans that we have made to resume school this fall . School handbooks provide specific health and safety information will be sent to all families in the next week with other information that typically accompanies the start of the school year.

To best protect the health of our students, staff and citizens, and to abide by recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Department of Education (DOE) and executive orders from the Governor, schools will need to change many practices. However, we remain committed to our mission: "To prepare all SAU #7 students for success in whatever path they choose." This mission statement will continue to guide educators in our future endeavors.

While we look forward to school resuming on September 8, it is possible at a later time this year, we may be required to implement a short- or long-term campus closure due to COVID-19 resulting in remote/distance learning. Therefore, our plan is subject to change. We have developed a flexible educational framework with guidelines that may be modified due to changing conditions.

In preparation for the start of the school year, our teachers and support staff are participating in professional development sessions in advance of the school year. We know that our families may have questions about the start of the school year. Therefore, we have scheduled ***Back to School Parent Forums***. These sessions will be held remotely on August 31 via zoom. Your school principal will send you information on how to connect to the virtual event in your school community. Please make a note of the date and time of these events - we encourage you to join!

Mission Statement

To prepare all SAU #7 students for success in whatever path they choose.

Our school environment is a reflection of our community. We will find success in maintaining a safe, healthy school setting when at home, at work, and outside of school hours, our students, staff, families, and community members follow the safety guidelines of the Department of Health. We are all in this together. We appreciate your cooperation.

These are unprecedented times, and we are navigating an incredibly complex puzzle of health guidance, student needs, family challenges, and staff concerns. We will continue to make every effort to be as transparent, clear, and timely in communicating decisions as we can. As a district, we are working hard to provide your children with a safe and effective education during this difficult time.

We are here for our students and for your family. Please reach out to me or your building principal if you have questions. Thank you for your patience and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Debra Taylor, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Parent Forum Information - Mark your Calendars
Families are cordially invited to a virtual meeting concerning school reopening.
Your principal will send your meeting link. Please join us!

August 31 - Virtually via Zoom as follows:

Stewartstown Community School: 5:00 pm

Colebrook Academy and Elementary School: 6:00 pm

Pittsburg School: 7:00 pm