

# NEW MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Ms. Alisha DiCorpo  
Superintendent of Schools

February 11, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians:

I am writing today to inform you that, as a district, we are planning to bring students back to school for in person learning in grades PK-5 during the month of March. Students who wish to continue accessing their education remotely will also be able to do so. The transition will take place with PK-2 students returning first on March 1, 2021, and then two weeks later, grades 3-5 on March 15, 2021. The Friday before each school is to reopen, both cohorts will be remote. For HPS and NES that will be February 26th and for SNIS, March 12th. This will allow teachers and administrators to use the time to collaboratively plan for a safe return for all students and staff. It's important to note that all reopen dates are subject to change, based upon COVID related factors. I will update families as we get closer to the dates if there are to be any changes.

For planning purposes, we are looking for you to inform us as to whether or not your child will be returning to school in person. Please do so by clicking on the link(s) below to each school's parent survey. You must fill out one survey per child, no later than Friday, February 19, 2021. This valuable information will help us to solidify plans to prepare for the reopening of school with additional social distancing if possible.

HPS:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfR\\_qyg3rGdNSsjXg6CUUArteSPtep4CFPUjs6GHOuCOLDdgA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfR_qyg3rGdNSsjXg6CUUArteSPtep4CFPUjs6GHOuCOLDdgA/viewform)

NES: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScGdJB\\_GhYVMsemPkgPtaEB9EIoUEKfrQ0rtlft3jZ6idPtog/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScGdJB_GhYVMsemPkgPtaEB9EIoUEKfrQ0rtlft3jZ6idPtog/viewform)

SNIS:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScoA7NB45Os0AixUX33U\\_3y0A8OxdTeyoUj6\\_WKUY\\_XBuhc6A/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScoA7NB45Os0AixUX33U_3y0A8OxdTeyoUj6_WKUY_XBuhc6A/viewform)

For students who will be participating in person, the schedule will change to reflect in person learning, Monday through Friday, with an accelerated early dismissal schedule followed on Wednesday, complete with grab and go lunch. The administrators will work to define the Wednesday half day schedules, which will include time for planning as well as afford Facilities the opportunity to provide deep cleaning. Administration will also begin working with support staff and teachers to create transition plans for individual students who experience anxiety or have had difficulty in the past with full in person learning. More information will be forthcoming.

In addition to the PK-5 schools reopening, there will be changes made to the middle school and high school schedules that will include a half day of in person learning for students on Wednesdays with Cohort A and B rotating in. Cohort A will begin on March 17, 2021. More information on the schedules for each school will be forthcoming from the building principals. Additionally, all PK-5 principals will hold virtual meetings with parents prior to students returning in person to describe the school day and provide a virtual tour of each building.

In the interim, we have been working hard to safely plan for the reopening in the PK-5 schools. Desk shields for all teachers and students have been ordered and are due to come in over the next few weeks. The shields were approved by the Board of Education in late January and orders were immediately placed. The Facilities department will continue to work with building administration on cafeteria set up and partitions, as well as classroom configuration. Social distancing throughout the schools will be approximately 3-6 feet, and during recess students will be required to wear their masks. Prior to the reopening and throughout the first week, I will be visiting the schools with Lisa Morrissey, our new Health Director for the Town of New Milford, in order to make any adjustments needed.

I have been attending faculty meetings in each elementary school with members of the Central Office staff and building leadership. At the meetings, the principals have been providing school staff with the opportunity to give feedback on items such as schedules, transitions and lunch/recess, as well as to provide them with an opportunity to ask questions and provide suggestions. The meetings are ongoing with school staff and principals so that we can continue to seek feedback and prepare to reopen fully based on our parent survey data.

If you should have any specific questions related to your child's school, please feel free to reach out to the building administrator.

Sincerely,



Alisha DiCorpo  
Superintendent of Schools