

NEW MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Superintendent

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Ms. Alisha DiCorpo
Superintendent of Schools

March 10, 2021

Dear SMS and NMHS Parents and Guardians:

I am writing today to inform you that, as a district, we are planning to bring SMS and NMHS students back to school for in-person learning in grades 6-12 during the month of April. Students who wish to continue accessing their education remotely will also be able to do so. The transition will take place with Grades 6-12 students returning on April 26, 2021. It's important to note that this reopen date is 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 students who will be participating in-person, the schedule reflects in-person learning, Monday through Friday, with an accelerated early dismissal schedule followed on Wednesday, complete with grab and go lunch. The administrators have worked to define the Wednesday half day schedules, which will include time for planning as well as afford Facilities the opportunity to provide deep cleaning. The 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.

In the meantime, changes have been made to the middle school and high school schedules that include a half-day of in-person learning for students on Wednesdays with Cohort A and B rotating in. As a reminder, Cohort A will begin on March 17, 2021. You should have received schedules for each school from the building principal. Additionally, the Grades 6-12 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 of the Grades 6-12 schools. Desk shields for teachers and students have been ordered and are due to come in over the next few weeks. The shields will be sent for approval to the Board of Education this month and then orders will be placed immediately. The Facilities department will continue to work with building administration on cafeteria setup and partitions, as well as classroom configuration. Social distancing throughout the schools will be approximately 3-6 feet, and during any recess time at the middle school, 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.

The building principals have held faculty meetings in each school. At the meetings, the principals provided 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 SMS Interim Principal Michael Rafferty at raffertym@newmilfordps.org for all questions related to SMS and NMHS Principal Greg Shugrue at shugrueg@newmilfordps.org for all questions pertaining to the high school.

Have a wonderful day!

Sincerely,



Alisha DiCorpo
Superintendent of Schools