



OXFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

“Sailing Toward Success”

September 3, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians:

I suspect you may have received a number of messages from administrators this week so I will be brief in updating you. First, I want to thank you again for your understanding in the recent program change for those students who are not returning to school this fall and rather participating as full remote students. However, as I indicated when we reviewed the survey numbers, because of the large percentage of students electing remote and the impact that has on staffing needs, we are now able to offer a model that will provide all students with remote teachers. All students in grades K-7 will have a remote teacher for their entire day while high school students will have a remote teacher for their core courses with electives taken online.

The following are a few other items about school re-opening that I wish to alert you about as we get closer to September 16th:

1. MASKS/FACE COVERINGS:

At its August 24th meeting the School Committee voted on a new *Face Coverings* policy. This new policy extends the wearing of masks by students to now include Preschool, Kindergarten, and grade 1 students. Prior to this policy, only students in grades 2-12+ were required to wear masks/face coverings. There are some exceptions to this policy (see attachment). There is no change to the requirement for all staff to wear masks.

2. LUNCH:

As was indicated in the Re-Entry Plan Blueprint, students who purchase lunch will have it delivered to their classrooms. At the beginning of the school day at the elementary schools and in their first period class at the secondary schools, teachers will take a count of students who are participating in the school lunch program and their meal choice, hot or cold. To expedite the process, we are requesting that you review the lunch menu for the upcoming week with your child, especially if you have an elementary student. In addition, I would like to remind you that due to health and safety concerns as well as our new lunch process, we will not be able to accept cash at this time. Please add lunch funds by visiting your child's *MySchoolBucks* account, or if you prefer, you can mail a check to **Pat Hokanson, Food Services Director, Oxford High School, 100 Carbuncle Drive, Oxford, MA 01540**. Make your check payable to **Oxford Public Schools**.

3. COHORT GROUPS:

Principals should be notifying you on Friday, September 4th with your child's cohort group. As a reminder, Cohort Group A will be reporting to school on September 16th and Cohort Group B will report on September 17th.

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4. CHROMEBOOKS:

Chromebooks will be distributed for students who need them and are participating in remote learning on September 14th and 15th. Parents of these students should receive a notification as to exact time and date. Students who are participating in hybrid learning will receive Chromebooks when they begin school on September 16th and 17th. As the Director of Technology indicated, while we have ordered enough new Chromebooks to fill our needs, all deliveries have been delayed due to the high demand. If you have a device that you can use until we receive our new shipment, then we would ask you to do so until such time that our shipment arrives.

5. SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION:

Because of the changes in our design model, cohort groups have taken longer than expected. As the bus vendor needs these cohort groups to design routes, unfortunately, information about bus routes, stops, and times will not be available until the end of next week.

6. ORIENTATION:

Orientation for hybrid students will occur during their first two days of school. Remote students will be meeting directly with their teachers beginning on September 16th. Administrators will be contacting you with the specifics for their schools next week. While much of the orientation for parents and students will be remote, elementary principals are working to design a plan that may allow for some brief in-person visits for students and parents, in accordance with our health and safety requirements. We recognize the value of having a first time student tour his/her new building and we are hopeful that we can find a safe way to make this happen. If this occurs, parents will receive a notice from the principal.

Finally, all of our staff have returned for eleven days of orientation and training before your children return to school. They are familiarizing themselves with all of the new health and safety protocols as well as planning instruction for hybrid and remote learning. We are excited about the school year and the prospects of getting back to a “new normal.” If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me or your building administrator. Again, thank you for your understanding. Enjoy the last days of summer and a beautiful Labor Day weekend!

With warmest wishes,



Kristine E. Nash, Ed.D.

Attachment - Face Covering Policy