August 18, 2020

Dear SRTC Students and Parents,

I am thrilled to offer an enthusiastic welcome to SRTC to our new and returning students and parents. I hope that you and your family are well and are eagerly anticipating the return to school this fall. I know that many of you have been interested in more information about the plan for SRTC to reopen in September and I am happy to be able to provide you with more details today.

As you may know, Governor Mills’ Covid-19 Health Advisory System has characterized York County as “Green” on both July 31st and August 14th, meaning that in person instruction may be considered if all other precautions can be put in place. SRTC will return in a hybrid model of SRTC students attending in person on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, with Wednesday as a remote day for cleaning, independent learning, and check-ins with instructors. Students will attend one of two half-day sessions, as was the practice prior to the implementation of distance learning in March of last year. The sessions are as follow:

8:00am-10:20am: AM Session-Most of SRTC’s first year students are scheduled during this time.

11:00am-1:20pm: PM Session-Most of SRTC’s second year students are scheduled during this time.

The only exceptions to the schedule above are students attending our one-year programs (Emergency Medical Services, Fire Science and Health Occupations). Those students can be scheduled in either session. If you are unsure of the session assignment for your student, please contact us at SRTC.

Please note that the arrival and dismissal times listed are approximate, as a staggered arrival and dismissal procedure will be implemented.

This plan is subject to review should York County’s “Green” distinction change in the future or if other factors limit our ability to safely hold in-person instruction and implement all precautions as determined by the Maine Department of Education, the CDC and the Sanford School Department.

SRTC is planning to return to school on Tuesday, September 8th, which is delayed from the originally planned start date of Monday, August 31st. This change enables us to remain aligned with our partner schools, who are planning on the same date to start the school year.

In order for us to anticipate and plan for the start of the school year, please complete the SRTC Return to School Survey at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScy8lvvw7MO2fNt62HGksgVi0TEHAdu_UaxBsdauujwgHNV0g/viewform?usp=sf_link. I know that you have completed similar surveys for your high schools, but this survey pertains solely to SRTC. Information regarding transportation will be shared with our partner
schools, so that they can plan appropriately for transportation to and from SRTC. The survey will remain open until Monday, August 24th at 3:00pm. I thank you for completing this survey to allow us to plan for your student.

As you will note in the survey, we have decided to ease our restrictions on students driving themselves to and from SRTC. Students who opt to drive must have reliable transportation as your partner school will not plan for you to be on the bus. Students must also plan to drive themselves, not ride with a friend, for liability purposes. If you plan to have your student drive to and from SRTC daily, please complete the driving exception form found on our website at https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/863562/driving_exception__long_term_.pdf. Complete forms may be sent to me with the student and parent signature and I will take care of the other permissions (partner school and SRTC instructor). Forms may be emailed directly to Mr. Redmond, SRTC Assistant Director at mredmond@sanford.org. If you plan to transport your student, simply indicate this on the survey; no further paperwork is required.

It is important to note that, although SRTC will offer a distance learning option for students and families with safety concerns, this does not guarantee that all features of the program can be provided in a distance model. Practical, hands-on learning is extremely difficult to replace with distance learning and some of our programs are overseen by third-party organizations that require in-person experiences. Although high school credit may be earned through the distance model, certifications and even college credits may not be available through this mode of instruction.

As you prepare for the start of school, please note that masks which cover the nose and mouth will be mandatory for all students and staff at SRTC. In addition, students are being asked to minimize the belongings that they bring to SRTC. One personal item that we recommend bringing to SRTC is a water bottle; water fountains will be disabled, allowing only the bottle fillers to function in order to minimize a possible source of infection. Students and staff will also be expected to practice proper hand hygiene throughout the day. Hand sanitizer stations are being set up throughout the building and additional cleaning products will be available in each classroom/lab area to allow for regular cleaning of hand tools and other equipment used in each program.

Students and staff will be required to complete a daily symptom screening at home each day before coming into the building. More information on this system will be forthcoming. Prior to the start of the school year, I will send a start of the school year letter to provide more details and several reminders. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me at ksargent@sanford.org or (207) 206-1779.

Although the start of this school year may look a little different from what we are used to, I must say that I am so excited to have students return to the building. One of my favorite things about SRTC is the excitement and passion that students bring to their learning here and that will never change. Thank you for your assistance and support as we navigate the changes ahead.

Sincerely,

Katherine Sargent
Kathy Sargent, Director

The mission of the Sanford Regional Technical Center is to provide quality technical training, career awareness and employability skills to effectively assist students in their career choices.