

Cape Schools Open Minds and Open Doors

Community • Academics • Passion • Ethics

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Dear Parents, Guardians, and Community Members,

Last night the Cape Elizabeth School Board approved the Hybrid Model as the plan for opening school in the fall. We realize that this year will be like no other school year, and that there will be procedures and plans that will need to be revised as we proceed through the year. The first week or so of school might not be perfect but we are committed to working toward excellence, and we will make adjustments when needed. We ask for your patience as we start this challenging year.

Principals are presently reviewing enrollment data for the 100% remote learning model and adjusting class lists, and maroon and gold designations based on that data. They are nearing the completion of this process and will have maroon/gold designations ready for publication by the beginning of next week, if not sooner. Maroon students will attend school on Mondays and Thursdays. Gold students will attend on Tuesdays and Fridays. Wednesdays will be at-home support days in the morning. Class lists should be available by the beginning of the week, and principals will notify parents about these assignments.

The 2020-2021 school year calendar revision was also approved last night. Principals will be developing schedules for introducing small groups of students to their school procedures such as passing in hallways, social distancing, hand washing, wearing masks, etc., as well as meeting their teachers during the two weeks of “student roll in”, which will be held from September 8-18. For example, one day might be used for the maroon 9th graders and the next day for the gold 9th graders, in order to familiarize them with the building and staff. Some teachers may be asking students to come in for individual assessments during those days in order to determine their knowledge and skills in certain academic areas. September 9 and 16 will be used for students in the 100% remote learning program to pick up devices and meet their teachers, either remotely or in-person, based on the comfort level of the families of students involved in that program. Principals will be developing the schedules for the two “student roll in” weeks, for both the 100% remote learning program and the in-school program and will be notifying parents of those schedules.

In-school students will be required to wear masks at all times, except for when eating or when taking mask breaks. These periodic mask breaks will be practiced according to 6 feet social distancing requirements. Please familiarize your student with wearing a mask and it will make the start of school easier for our in-school students. Students will be required to wear masks on the bus so please make sure that your student has a mask to wear when heading to the bus stop.

The instructional maroon/gold program will start for in-school, as well as 100% remote students on September 21, 2020. Bus schedules will be distributed when they are complete. In order to ensure social distancing on all buses, students will only be admitted to their assigned bus. Bus monitors will be hired, in order to maintain that proper mask-wearing and social distancing practices are being observed on all of our buses.

For families of students participating in the in-school model, please be mindful of the COVID-19 travel guidelines. If families have traveled out of state, or anticipate travel (with the exception of states exempted from the Governor's Executive Order- currently NH, VT, CT, NJ, NY) in the last 14 days, students must sufficiently quarantine for 14 days or provide a negative COVID-19 test result prior to entering school buildings. Test results can take several days so please plan accordingly. State sponsored drive-through test sites offer FREE testing. Appointments are booked online. They often book at least one or more days out. So, in the 14 days before students are in our buildings, if students have gone with their families to take a child to college, or if students have traveled with a sports team, had a medical appointment, or vacationed out of state, other than those that are exempt, they will need to follow the return to school after-travel guidelines. Please also plan accordingly for weekend or vacation trips in the future. We plan to post updated travel information on the district website in order to help with your planning.

Below are links to the 2 closest state sponsored testing sites, as well as a link with all of the sites. Non-state sponsored sites often charge a fee, take insurance information, and many have restrictions (must be symptomatic or high risk or a patient at their facility, etc.).

Information will be coming out during the next few weeks via PowerSchool email, on our district website, and on our Facebook page. In addition, we are working on a parent/student handbook that will provide helpful information.

Stay well,

Donna

<https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/epi/airborne/coronavirus/travel.shtml#:~:text=It%20is%20mandated%20that%20all,go%20out%20to%20grocery%20stores.>

<http://get-tested-covid19.org/>

State Sponsored Testing Site- Mercy Fore River:

<https://northernlighthealth.org/Resources/COVID-19/Testing>

State Sponsored Testing Site- Westbrook Public Safety:

https://www.solvehealth.com/book-online/p3mxj0?fbclid=IwAR0733YoU-PMga2Yk3mqft_hAZyK22vdRf9kGT4dY-y9XqnsO8IgQhVG6l0