

Cape Schools Open Minds and Open Doors

Community • Academics • Passion • Ethics

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Dear Parents and Guardians of Students Participating in the Hybrid Model of Learning,

Thank you so much for your patience as school administrators work out Maroon and Gold assignments. We have attempted to align student assignments based on students within the same family, with a goal of consistency throughout the three schools. In some cases, this has not been possible, because the process has been complicated, and assignments impact class sizes, schedules, and teacher assignments. Maroon and Gold assignments will go out at noon today (Wednesday).

Cape Elizabeth High School Assignments will be available in PowerSchool, Cape Elizabeth Middle School assignments will be emailed to parents by Principal, Troy Eastman, and Pond Cove Elementary Assignments will be emailed to parents by Principal Jason Manjourides.

We have been working on a Parent/Student Handbook that will be available *by the end of the week*. This document will provide valuable information for parents and students regarding practices and procedures in our schools during the pandemic, including expectations and guidelines that parents and students will need to follow in order to keep our students and staff safe. This will be an evolving document that we will continually update as decisions are made, and as Maine CDC and Maine DOE guidelines change. This Parent/ Student Handbook will be available by accessing a link on the district website home page. In addition, you will be receiving updates regarding the opening of school via emails from school administrators.

Maroon and Gold assignments will be forwarded to Pat Fowler, Transportation Systems Scheduler, who will begin working on the very complicated task of creating bus schedules. Students will be assigned to buses and, in order to provide the required social distancing, *only those students assigned to specific buses will be boarding the buses*. If you did *not* commit to transporting your students, if your situation has changed in any way that might impact bussing, or if you have additional specific bussing needs (such as different pick-up and drop-off locations), please contact Pat Fowler via email at pfowler@capeelizabethschools.org. Due to the limitations of the social distancing requirements for buses, students will need to be picked up at the same bus stop each morning and dropped off at the same bus stop each afternoon, but please notify Pat Fowler as soon as possible so that she can incorporate your request into the schedule. We are in the process of hiring monitors to ride our buses. These monitors will distribute hand sanitizer upon entering the bus and will check student names as they enter, in order to comply with social distancing requirements. Again, students who are not assigned to the bus will not be permitted to board the bus.

When the Parent/Student Handbook is available, please review the Handbook and note the example of the *Daily COVID-19 Checklist for Students*, and the Parent Contract (this needs to be completed on PowerSchool when it becomes available). In order to promote the safety of our schools, the Contract will need to be completed before students arrive at school on the first day. In addition, we are expecting that parents will use the daily checklist for students to assess the health of their students each day before they enter our buildings. Staff will be self-assessing before they come to work each day. In order to keep our

schools up and running this year, and in order to keep our students and staff safe, it is very important that everyone be cognizant of symptoms and take precautions by staying home if they exhibit symptoms. This will truly be a community effort!

Our staff are back in our buildings, and they are participating in training sessions for safety procedures. We are all learning new ways to function within our schools, and new ways to interact with each other and with our students in order to be as safe as possible. Be sure to continue to refer to the *Parent/Staff Handbook* when it becomes available for updated information, be aware of the travel restrictions published by the Maine CDC, and work with your students on social distancing and mask wearing practices so that their return to school will be more comfortable.

We will continue to provide information as it becomes available. Stay well.

Donna