

**Shrewsbury Borough School**  
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Brent A. MacConnell  
Superintendent

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August 24, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians:

- The Genesis Parent Portal will be opening on **Aug 27, 2021** in the late afternoon or early evening. Parents and guardians will need to acknowledge several important policies, permissions, and documents to be able to view homeroom teacher assignments and student schedules for the Middle School. Any students qualifying for Advanced Mathematics or Algebra I will see this reflected in their schedules. No separate notifications will be made.
- The Shrewsbury Board of Education approved an amended school calendar for the 2021-2022 school year. Please note the change in the length of Spring Break, including full school days on April 21 and 22, 2022 and an earlier end to our school year on June 16, 2022. Graduation for the Class of 2022 will be held on Wednesday, June 15, 2022.
- Important SBS 2021-2022 Reopening Information:
  - SBS plans to resume 'normal operations' this year as of September 1st, the first day back for faculty and staff, and as of September 2nd, the first day for students. Thursday, September 2nd is a 12:30 PM dismissal day.
  - We are planning for a full instructional day from 8:15 AM to 3:01 PM for all students each and every day. No student will be admitted to the school unless requested by a teacher until 8:15 AM.
  - The YMCA Y-Kids program is available to all parents for before and after school care. They have informed me that they don't have enough students yet for an AM program but will open this option if and when they have more interest.
  - We currently plan to utilize the cafeteria/gym/stage area for student lunches. Each lunch period is split into a 23 minute segment for K-2, 3-4, 5-6, and 7-8 respectively. We will add lunch tables and increase the distance between students to the greatest degree possible. Students will wear their masks unless they are eating or drinking, similar to last year's snack breaks in the classroom. We will also develop a schedule for groups of students to have lunch outside when weather permits. Additionally, we will utilize bipolar ionic air scrubbing technology in our two HVAC units. These units circulate air during lunch providing important air exchange while students are eating.

- SBS will continue implementing the important public health measures that we utilized last year which successfully prevented any cases of in-school transmission of COVID-19, including:
  - Implementing Governor Murphy's Executive Order #251 which outlines the use of masks by all students and district employees during the school day and school-related activities. Any requests for exemptions will be evaluated by our district physician and in consultation with the Monmouth County Regional Health Commission #1.
  - No student or employee will be admitted to SBS for school or school-related activities without a mask. All parents, guardians, and visitors to the school will be required to wear a mask as mandated by Executive Order #251 . Scarves, gators, and other face coverings are not acceptable respiratory protection at SBS. We will be prepared to issue masks to students who have lost or forgotten their masks for school.
  - SBS will emphasize hand washing and the use of hand sanitizer throughout the school day and during all afterschool activities.
  - SBS will implement social distancing practices to the greatest extent possible during the school day.
  - SBS will rely on bipolar ionic air scrubbing technology in each classroom unit ventilator and in the sporadic HVAC units to exchange fresh air throughout the school.
  - SBS will continue to use individual desk shields in the classroom and other shields and barriers throughout the school.
  - All students, staff, and guests to the school will have their temperature screened upon entry to the school and be visually screened for any type of symptoms and illness each day.
  - SBS will no longer utilize the CareCheck daily COVID-19 screener each morning but any parent, guardian, or visitor to the school will be required to complete a health questionnaire to be admitted.
  - All parents, guardians, and visitors must make an appointment at least 24 hours in advance for health and safety reasons except in the case of an emergency. Parents and guardians will be able to leave items for students in the security vestibule located at the Main Entrance of the school.
  - SBS will continue employing aggressive and thorough cleaning and disinfecting protocols daily throughout the school but with particular attention to high touch points and common areas utilizing:
    - Portable UV light disinfection units used daily in each classroom.
    - Medical-grade, Electrostatic foggers used throughout the school.
    - Focused cleaning on common areas, bathrooms, door handles, student desks, desk barriers, etc.
  - SBS will continue to utilize strict contact tracing procedures for any instance of symptomatic individuals or positive COVID-19 individuals with:
    - Additional training for faculty and staff.
    - Improved classroom seating documentation for accuracy.

- Continued consultation with the school physician and MCRHC#1 for each and every case.
  - Complete and through implementation of any and all guidelines and recommendations provided by the MCRHC#1 as this guidance is not voluntary or optional. “Compliance (by the district) is expected” in all cases as directed by the NJDOE, the NJDOH, and the MCRHC#1.
  - SBS will be implementing the most recent guidance from the CDC regarding ‘close contacts.’ Close Contacts are considered to be someone who has spent a cumulative total of 15 minutes within 6 feet of an infected individual (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) as an infected person can spread SARS-CoV-2 starting from 2 days before they are symptomatic. SBS will be using the NEW Exception issued by the CDC on August 5, 2021. ***In the K-12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) if both the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitted masks the entire time.*** This exemption does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the classroom setting.
- Our Executive County Superintendent has authorized the use of Virtual Instruction only in specific circumstances of individuals and groups of students quarantined because of COVID-19. In the event of a whole school closure due to COVID-19, the district will also use Virtual Instruction. At this time, Virtual Instruction is not available as a choice for parents and cannot be used in conjunction with family vacations or travel.
  - An important part of our overall public health strategy for the school year is to encourage everyone who is eligible to become vaccinated. Vaccinations and fidelity to our school mask policy are the simplest, most effective way to avoid missing invaluable instructional, social, and developmental opportunities in school this year.

Please contact me directly at any time if you have questions or concerns about our preparations for school this year. I remain optimistic that we can provide a full day of instruction consistently for every student with a focus on the health, safety, and well-being of everyone in our school community. I thank you in advance for your support and commitment to SBS as I know that our school community is an important part of our success in keeping everyone safe and healthy.

Very sincerely,

*Brent A. MacConnell*

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