

Shrewsbury Borough School

20 Obre Place
Shrewsbury, New Jersey 07702

Brent A. MacConnell
SUPERINTENDENT

(732)747-0882
fax: (732)747-7510

July 17, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians:

I wanted to thank everyone for your responses to the SBS Parent Reopening Survey that we sent out on Tuesday. Your participation, perspective, and feedback greatly assists us with our plans for September even as the guidance and information that we receive from the NJDOE, NJDOH, and others changes. I know that many of the questions and comments that have been reflected in our survey results will be addressed in our plan as related to every aspect of our reopening. This is a frustrating process for everyone as each individual district has essentially been tasked with developing a return plan with very broad guidelines and very little specific information. We have been asked to balance a national health crisis with educating each of our students to their fullest potential and meeting their educational, social, emotional, and physical needs. We must also create a plan that keeps our faculty and staff safe and healthy and gives everyone in our school community a level of confidence and comfort to begin returning to a changed school environment. And finally, our plans must help the school continue to be a secure and safe facility for everyone everyday and address the many other important priorities that we set during regular operations outside of the pandemic.

As parents and guardians you should also know that I am deeply sympathetic to your concerns about returning our children to SBS in September. The current restrictions that schools have been asked to follow in creating their reopening plans make full-time, in-person instruction impossible given the size of our classrooms as juxtaposed against the CDC guidelines for appropriate social distancing as circumstances currently dictate. Our classroom sizes and configurations also will necessitate the use of masks (at various times), individual desk and classroom barriers, and other measures to eliminate and minimize contact between students and staff during the day.

We have purchased some important cleaning equipment including UV light sanitizing units and electrostatic foggers that will allow our crew to clean even more thoroughly during the day and after everyone leaves. We are investing in temperature scanning equipment and creating processes to screen students and staff upon entry to the school and during the school day as needed. We do anticipate that masks and barriers will be a part of our routine in classrooms and hallways as they are needed and appropriate for each of our students.

I thought that I would take this opportunity to explain what our SBS plan will include and the parameters that we have been asked to follow to develop our plan. Each public school district is utilizing the NJDOE document [The Road Back: Restart and Recovery Plan for Education](#) and following the guidance provided

therein. There are many questions from local districts that the NJDOE has yet to answer, but our plan will include specific planning in “four key subject areas” that each have “Critical Areas of Operation” and “Additional Considerations”:

- Conditions for Learning
 - General Health and Safety Guidelines
 - Classrooms, Testing, and Therapy Rooms
 - Transportation
 - Student Flow, Entry, Exit, and Common Areas
 - Screening, PPE, and Response to Students and Staff Presenting Symptoms
 - Contact Tracing
 - Facilities Cleaning Practices
 - Meals
 - Recess/Physical Education
 - Field Trips, Extra-curricular Activities & Use of Facilities Outside of School Hours
- Leadership and Planning
 - Scheduling
 - Staffing
 - Athletics
- Policy and Funding
 - School Funding
 - Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund
 - Federal Emergency Management Agency- Public Assistance
 - State School Aid
 - Purchasing
 - Use of Reserve Accounts, Transfers, and Cashflow
 - Costs and Contracting
- Continuity of Learning
 - Ensuring the Delivery of Special Education and Related Services to Students with Disabilities
 - Technology and Connectivity
 - Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessments
 - Professional Learning

Our hybrid schedule is based on our current SBS 6-day, A/B rotation. Tentatively, students will follow our full day schedule for the schoolwide Virtual Day and will have the opportunity to communicate with their teachers on their other virtual days in the afternoon. Our preliminary planning is predicated around 50% of our population being in the school at a time for a 4-hour day and does involve alternating A and B days following our 6-day schedule. While this is not the solution that returns our students full-time, it does allow us to focus our efforts intensive, in-person instruction and utilize our more robust virtual model on the days when students are home. The feedback that we received from students, parents, and our instructional professionals has been important in rebuilding our distance learning from our initial, sudden transition in March.

Our goal will be to prepare each and every one of our students to be independent, self-sufficient digital learners so that students can be successful at home in the virtual environment without the direct assistance of parents and guardians. This is an ambitious goal but I am confident that we can reduce

student dependence on parents during the virtual school day and assist families who are balancing many other priorities simultaneously.

We will be hosting a Parent Town Hall on Thursday, July 23rd at 7:00 PM to answer questions and address parent concerns about our preliminary plans to reopen SBS in September under the current guidelines from the NJDOE. If you have questions and comments, I ask that you kindly forward them to Mrs. Distefano at distefanom@sbs-nj.org before 3:00 PM on July 23rd. We will answer questions and address concerns to the best of our ability during a Zoom meeting and take callers if time permits. I know that many of you have similar questions so it's likely that you will hear your question or concern expressed at some point during the evening.

We will publish information and a link for the Parent Town Hall next week and we will email everyone with the details.

I want you to know that we have some very specific requirements for our plan that must acknowledge our specific circumstances as a one school, PreK to 8 district. There may not be specific guidance or information as of yet to answer your questions but we will try our best to answer your questions.

We are working closely with other districts in our area on the Peninsula and we all have very similar plans. We are especially attentive to the planning for RBRHS and our sending district partners as their plans may affect our families as well.

If you haven't taken our survey yet, please follow this link to our [SBS Parent Reopening Survey](#) and respond by Sunday, July 19, 2020. This survey is an important part of planning.

Very sincerely,

Brent A. MacConnell
Superintendent